

Gc
977.701
J13w
1827696

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01081 2771

1827696
1942
JACKSON COUNTY HISTORY

IOWA

Compiled and written by
The Iowa Writers' Program
Of the Work Projects Administration
In the State of Iowa

Philip B. Fleming, Administrator

Jessie M. Parker,

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

F. H. Dryden
State-wide Sponsor of the

Florence Park
John M. ...
Iowa Writers' Program

Sponsored by
County Superintendent of Schools
Jackson County

1942 .

43905

Today, when aggressors of Europe and western Asia threaten Democracy and Freedom all over the world, it is well to look back upon the proud record of our forefathers and therein find the solution to our present problem -- the safeguarding of our way of life for every race, creed, and color.

Federal Works Agency

Philip B. Fleming, Administrator

Work Projects Administration

F. H. Dryden, Acting Commissioner

Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner

John M. Naughton, State Administrator

Program of the Work Projects Administration, this history of Jackson County takes us step by step through our periods of peril, recovery, and progress.

Chas. Martin

County Superintendent of Schools

Jackson County, Iowa

FOREWORD

Today, when aggressors of Europe and western Asia threaten Democracy and Freedom all over the world, it is well to look back upon the proud record of our forefathers and therein find the solution to our present problem -- the safeguarding of our way of life for every race, creed, and color.

Every day we learn more about the deeds of gallant men who have made and preserved the United States. We should also be acquainted with the history of our own county and its pioneers, whose rugged character was more than a match for the organized outlawry which attempted early in the county's history to make Bellevue a county seat of crime on the Nation's western frontier.

Carefully prepared and written by the Iowa Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration, this History of Jackson County takes us step by step through our periods of peril, recovery, and progress.

Chas. Martin

County Superintendent of Schools
Jackson County, Iowa

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .	1
BEFORE THE PIONEERS	5
THE SETTLERS COME IN	10
THE ARRIVAL OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT	17
DARK CLOUDS OVER JACKSON COUNTY	25
THE BELLEVUE WAR	36
GROWTH AND THE LAND SALES	44
THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL	52
HECTIC DAYS	62
THE RAILROADS COME TO JACKSON COUNTY	70
BOOM YEARS IN EDUCATION	80
CLOSING DECADES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY	89
AGRICULTURE AND THE COUNTY FAIR	96
THE MODERN COUNTY	105
CONCLUSION	111

INTRODUCTION

THE CONTEMPORARY PICTURE

Jackson County, the easternmost county in the fourth tier from the northern boundary of Iowa, forms part of the projecting point locally known as "Cromwell's Nose." The area of the county is 638 square miles. The 19 civil townships, named from west to east and from north to south, are: Prairie Springs, Tete des Morts, Butler, Otter Creek, Richland, Bellevue, Brandon, Farmer's Creek, Perry, Jackson, Washington, Monmouth, South Fork, Maquoketa City, Maquoketa, Fairfield, Van Buren, Iowa, and Union.

The surface of the county, extremely rough in the northern and central areas, slopes toward the eastern end. Elevation varies from 604 feet at Sabula, in the southeastern part of the county, to 1,190 feet in Prairie Springs Township. Much of the land, because of the fact that it is too hilly for successful farming, is used for timber and grazing. One area in Monmouth Township is especially rugged. Bear Creek, running through this township, is walled by vertical bluffs and peaks of limestone. Limestone crags rise also above the Maquoketa River, in places to a height of 200 feet. The underlying rock in Jackson County is Niagara limestone. Galena limestone and Hudson river shales are exposed in some places along the Mississippi River.

Iron ore has been found on or near the surface along the Maquoketa River and along some of the creeks, but never in quantities warranting commercial development. In the early days, during the regime of Julien Dubuque, lead was mined in the northeastern part of the county. Float deposits of lead have been found elsewhere in the county, as have oil and gold, but never in commercial quantities.

The largest stream running through Jackson County is the Maquoketa River. Its North and South Forks flow west to east through tortuous channels to unite about one mile north of the city limits of Maquoketa. Although the Maquoketa is usually shallow and peaceful, there are times after heavy spring and fall rains when it becomes a real torrent. Its principal tributaries are Lytle's, Farmer's, and Brush Creeks from the north, and Bear and Deep Creeks from the south. The Maquoketa joins the Mississippi near Green Island. Tete des Morts Creek, in the northern part of the county, and Elk Creek, in the southern, flow into the Mississippi, the latter however only after it has crossed into Clinton County.

Although the southern tier of townships in Jackson County has very little native timber, there are groves of

The Contemporary Picture

white, red, black, and burr oak and of hard maple in the eastern part. Throughout these wooded parts, elm, basswood, ironwood, black walnut, butternut, gray ash, shellbark and black hickory, cottonwood, and birch are found as single trees and in small clusters. The stand of timber between the forks of the Maquoketa is probably one of the finest in eastern Iowa.

From these various native woods Jackson County manufacturers did at one time make lumber, kegs, barrels, tubs, fence posts, siding for houses, and other building materials. Maple sugar is boiled down from the sap of the hard maple. Lumber mills are situated at Bellevue, Emeline, Iron Hill, and Monmouth.

Part of the limestone quarried in this county is used for building and soil fertilizing purposes. The remainder is burned into quicklime. At one time three-fourths of the state's entire output of lime came from Jackson County. Of especial note was the Hurst White Lime produced at Hurstville, which also provided a market for thousands of cords of wood, purchased from nearby farmers.

Although three-fourths of the county's soil is of varying grades of loess, there is much clay, and clay products add materially to the income of Jackson County citizens. Factories within the county at one time made drain tile and bricks for paving and building, most of the output being used locally.

About eight miles northwest of Maquoketa is a series of natural bridges, commonly called caves, around which Maquoketa Caves State Park, an excellent recreation area, has been set off. These bridges were made by the waters of a small creek eroding a subterranean passage, causing a partial caving in of the overhang. Interesting and beautiful mineral formations line these caves. One of the chief attractions here is the 100-foot-high overhead natural bridge.

Another series of subterranean natural bridges appears near the old village of Cottonville in Richland Township. These are known as Hunter's (or Cottonville) Caves.

One of the State's most picturesque areas is the 145-acre Bellevue State Park, located atop a majestic bluff immediately south of Bellevue, with a scenic winding road leading up to it. The bluff rises some 300 feet above the Mississippi, affording an excellent view of the river valley for several miles. This park also has been developed into a recreation area.

Two points of interest along the Mississippi River are the Mississippi River nine-foot channel, built in 1936-39,

and the State Fish Rescue Station, located at Sabula, whose purpose is to rescue the fish marooned after floods. Some are taken to inland waters, undesirables are destroyed, and the rest are put back into the Mississippi.

One of the most picturesque localities in the county has been burdened with an ugly name: Tetes des Morts (Heads of the Dead) Valley, a land of beauty in which lies the quaint old village of Saint Donatus. In his History of Iowa (1876), Professor Charles R. Tuttle wrote of this vicinity:

"The curious and delightful effects produced by the vast cliffs of Galena limestone which in this locality rise from 40 to 60 feet almost perpendicularly, appear to be capped with living emerald which rolls back toward cloud land or is lost in the towering bluffs at their back..."

Combined with the region's natural appeal is the man-made charm of Saint Donatus. A number of stone houses, combining residences and stables, were built there by the earliest settlers, a handful of Luxemburgers, in the old French peasant style of building. Many of these houses still stand.

The town, nestling in the valley, has churches on the high hills on each side of the stream. The Saint Donatus Catholic Church to the northeast was originally built of logs in 1843 but was rebuilt in 1851 and modernized still later.

Although the earliest settlers, who came in the late 1830's and early 1840's were of French descent, this community now is largely German. A group of Germans from Hanover settled here in the middle of the nineteenth century and erected a church on the hills to the southeast. After the first World War they built a new St. John's Lutheran church as an offering of thanksgiving for the ending of the war. Their descendants are predominant in the community in 1942.

Up the hill and behind the Catholic Church stands a chapel built in 1855 in memory of Father Flammang, who was brought from Luxemburg to teach the first school in the community. The chapel is reached by a long walk up a winding path, dotted by 14 little brick structures wherein are pictured Stations of the Cross.

An important eastern Iowa recreation area is Lakehurst, in the vicinity of the Eastern Power Company's hydro-electric dam across the Maquoketa River two miles west of Maquoketa. The dam, built in 1923-24, forms a lake about eight miles long which extends into Maquoketa Caves State Park.

Jackson County's towns of 1942 are agricultural, rather than industrial. The main industries have gone to the more

populous cities to the north and south. But for a time several factories flourished in the county. Among these were the piano factories at Bellevue, the boatyards at Maquoketa, and Sabula's Iowa Packing Company, which closed about 1900. Pearl button factories located at one time in Bellevue and Sabula made Jackson County the Nation's leader in the manufacture of this article and its by-products.

Cities and towns with a population of 100 or more in 1940 were Maquoketa, with 4,076; Bellevue, 1,771; Sabula, 771; Preston, 602; Miles, 314; La Motte, 272; Andrew, 263; Baldwin, 210; Monmouth, 190; Green Island, 148; Springbrook, 131; Zwingle (Jackson-Dubuque Counties), 118, and Spragueville, 116. Hurstville in 1940 had a population of 89. These were all incorporated towns.

Lively villages were Fulton, Garry Owen, Saint Donatus, Canton, Nashville, Iron Hill, and Otter Creek.

CHAPTER 1

BEFORE THE PIONEERS

It was in 1673 that the first white men entered the territory which later became Jackson County. Pere Jacques Marquette, Louis Joliet, and five companions had been sent by the Governor of New France (Canada) to explore the great river about which so much had been heard from the Indians inhabiting the Mississippi Valley. Paddling and drifting, they passed along the shores of eastern Iowa late in June, stopping at one point (about the location of which historians are uncertain) where they found a friendly Indian village a few miles inland. This was the first of a long procession of explorers, fur traders, hunters and trappers, miners, Indian agents, and soldiers of fortune.

Seven years after Marquette's party first explored the Mississippi, Robert de La Salle, under orders from the King of France, sent Michel Accault (Aco) on an exploring expedition up the Mississippi from the mouth of the Illinois River a few miles above St. Louis. La Salle himself headed another expedition and explored the lower Mississippi to its mouth. In 1682 he claimed the entire Mississippi Valley region for France, naming the country Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV.

In 1769 that part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi was transferred to the King of Spain. It was about this time that lead was discovered in the Dubuque country by Peosta, the wife of a Fox Indian warrior. Learning of the abundance of lead in this region, which was inhabited largely by the Sac and Fox tribes, the youthful French-Canadian voyageur, adventurer, miner, farmer, and trader, Julien Dubuque, appeared on the scene. Dubuque had a knack of making friends with the red men, and in 1788 he received permission from the tribal chiefs to mine the lead in a ten-mile wide strip extending 21 miles along the Mississippi, between the mouths of the Little Maquoketa River in Dubuque County and Tete des Morts Creek in Jackson County.

Toward the close of the eighteenth century the region began to be criss-crossed by the paths of American, Spanish, French, and English traders. To avoid trouble over his mines, Dubuque sought a Spanish grant for his claim and received this in 1796 from Baron de Carondelet, the Governor of Louisiana. In return for this favor, Dubuque named his tract Les Mines d'Espagne (The Mines of Spain). When he died in 1810 his mining party broke up and title to the claim reverted to the Indians.

Soon after Dubuque had received his grant, Napoleon

Bonaparte became First Consul of France, and one of his first acts was to demand the return of Louisiana to France. In 1801 this was accomplished, but a scant two years later Napoleon decided that the Louisiana colony was becoming a political burden. It was too big to be efficiently governed or defended, and the white population was very small. The United States was rapidly expanding westward; its people were eager to annex the Louisiana country. In 1803 Napoleon sold it to the United States Government. The area comprised about 1,000,000 square miles, or 640,000,000 acres. The purchase price was \$15,000,000, a price per acre of about four cents, figuring the interest and other considerations. Little did Napoleon dream that this whole area was to become one of the rich agricultural regions of the world.

The northern part of the Louisiana Purchase was organized by the U. S. in 1803 as the Louisiana District, and was first attached to the State of Indiana for purposes of government. On March 5, 1805, it was renamed the Territory of Louisiana, and during that year an expedition commanded by Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike was sent to explore the upper Mississippi River. On August 30 Pike's detachment passed the site of Sabula (Jackson County), and the next day he noted in his journal "a beautiful eminence on the W. side of the river. This place had the appearance of an old town." The "town" was an Indian village on the site of Bellevue, and the eminence has since been recognized as Bellevue's Leopold Hill.

There was something else close by, however, which Marquette, Accault, Pike, and the others had failed to see, or seeing, failed to comprehend. This was a series of artificial earth mounds, erected thousands of years previously by a race believed to have been the first human inhabitants of the Midwest. For lack of a more appropriate name these people have been termed the Mound Builders. Their main habitat in United States territory was in the present states of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

The Mound Builders erected many different types of mounds, the four main types being those designated as burial, ceremonial, fortification, and effigy. The first three types proved to be of great historical value, yielding many arrowheads, pieces of pottery, and other artifacts which afforded an insight into the mode of living of the men and women who built them. The effigy mounds, when seen from the air or from a high point, resembled huge prehistoric animals. But they rarely yielded anything of value for the archeologist.

The Mississippi River valley as far down as Davenport has many of these mounds, and in Jackson County they are

found as far inland as Andrew. To motorists they appear as small cone-shaped knolls or hills.

The Jackson and Dubuque County region was for a long time the home of some of the Sac and Fox Indian tribes. Their better-known chiefs were Tama, Pienoskie, Poweshiek, and Kishkekosh. It is probable that one or more of these men was chief at various times of the Sac and Fox village on the site of Bellevue. One account states that the village was once the headquarters of Chief Black Hawk, but none of the several histories of the life of Black Hawk mentions his presence in this part of Jackson County.

When white settlers first came to Jackson County, the headquarters and council room of Bellevue's Indian village were in a perfect state of preservation. These buildings were constructed by setting 12-foot poles in the ground and stringing more poles across the top for rafters. The poles were then laced together and the whole frame covered with elm or ash bark with the rough side out. In the council room were seats made of round poles lashed to the sides at the proper height for sitting. Usually, however, the Indians squatted on animal skins or grass mats placed on the ground within their teepees. They made use of seats only in council rooms or summer houses.

In addition to the Bellevue Indian village, it is known that another village of several families once occupied the site of Sabula, and the Sac and Fox tribes and the Winnebagoes had several small villages and made many encampments along the Maquoketa River and other streams in the county.

In September 1832 Governor John Reynolds of Illinois and Major General Winfield Scott met with Chief Black Hawk and braves of the Sac and Fox tribes at Fort Armstrong (Rock Island), Illinois. Here they concluded a treaty that transferred about 6,000,000 acres on the west side of the Mississippi River to the U. S. Government. Jackson County's area of 408,320 acres was included in this tract, a strip about 40 miles wide extending from Missouri's northern border to the mouth of the Upper Iowa River, with the Mississippi forming its eastern boundary. This acquisition soon became known as the "Black Hawk Purchase."

In return for this land, the Government agreed to pay the Indians \$20,000 annually for 30 years and to clear up their debts to the traders, amounting to \$50,000. C. J. Kappler, in his Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties, stated that the Government also agreed to furnish the tribes with a "black and gun smith shop, with the necessary tools, iron and steel; and finally to make a yearly allowance for the same period, to the said tribes, of 40 kegs of tobacco, and 40 barrels of salt..." A special grant was made to the

Before the Pioneers

Indian women and children whose fathers, husbands, and brothers were killed in the Black Hawk War immediately preceding the Purchase. They were to receive "35 beef cattle; 12 bushels of salt; 30 barrels of pork;...50 barrels of flour...(and) 6,000 bushels of Maize or Indian corn."

Under the terms of the treaty this land was to become the property of the United States June 1, 1833. After this time the Indians agreed not to fish, hunt, plant, or reside in the territory again. But legally the white settlers had no title to their claims until the land sales began. Usually these sales were held a number of years after such territory had actually been settled. The Indians seemed to be aware of this, and many of them stayed for some time after the removal date. The pioneers' efforts to keep Indians off their claims were the cause of most of the bad blood between the two groups. Prior to June 1, 1833, the Army forcibly ejected white men from their settlements on the west side of the Mississippi.

Most of the Sac and Fox tribes moved out of Jackson County before settlement began in 1833, but a group of Winnebagoes remained to hunt, trap, and fish. Although they caused no serious trouble, they were constantly feared by pioneer women. They were exceedingly friendly but had an annoying way of entering houses without knocking, and continually begged for food. Bright colors so delighted them that they often stole children's gay calico dresses from clothes lines. Sometimes they would call at a pioneer's cabin to sharpen their knives on the grindstone. After a few such visits, the pioneer wife learned to hide all bright garments, flour, and cornmeal until the knives were sharpened and the Indians had gone. These articles were hard won by the frontier people. Cloth had to be laboriously woven in the home, and grain had to be hauled long distances to be ground into flour or meal.

After the Government land sales in 1845 very few Indians were seen in Jackson County, though occasionally a few Sac and Fox or Winnebago braves came back to the Big Forest, as they called it, for a brief visit. Levi Wagoner, an old resident, wrote in an article in the Jackson Sentinel, March 5, 1908, that a remnant of the Black Hawk band made periodical trips through Jackson County to visit relatives in Wisconsin. They were well-equipped for traveling and camping. Food for themselves and their ponies seemed to be their main problem. Game was still plentiful but, according to Wagoner, "the braves did the hunting and stealing and the squaws did the begging, riding ponies and ranging the country for miles around. At night the braves would 'forage' (steal) corn for their ponies."

Wagoner's article states that the migrators' last trip,

about 1865, was a memorable one. The party, which had numbered more than 100 when the pilgrimages first began, had dwindled to about 40 persons. "On this march", the article tells us, "the men were woefully drunk and yelled like demons as they passed along, and it was hoped by the settlers that they would go as far as the day was long before they would camp. But in this they (the settlers) were disappointed for they scarcely made their next mile till the men were nearly all dead drunk, and they were forced to call a halt, and with the aid of their squaws pitched their tents one mile east of the present (village of) Emeline. Here they remained till the whiskey gave out and the men were sober enough to proceed, two days afterward. This was the last visit of the redskins in this section of the country."

There exists among a number of the citizens of Jackson County the belief that at one time a United States Army fort, named Fort Belle Vue, was located on the site of Bellevue. The story goes that a tribe of Winnebagoes laid siege to it in 1812, causing it to be burned and abandoned within a short time. The only basis for this belief is an account of a fort in the Western Historical Company's History of Jackson County (1879).

This account appears to be an error, since it follows almost to the letter the story of the siege and abandonment of Fort Madison, the first fort in the Iowa country, which was established in 1808 on the site of the city of Fort Madison in Lee County. Originally it was named Fort Belle Vue, and apparently the nearness of this name to that of the Jackson County town gave rise to the story. There are no army records of any fort on the site of Bellevue.

CHAPTER 2

THE SETTLERS COME IN

May 31, 1833, was a day of great activity on the Illinois shore of the Mississippi, across from the eastern border of the Black Hawk Purchase. Razor-sharp hatchets and axes were given another "lick" on the grindstone and bundles already tight and compact were given one more pull on the rope. Everything was packed and ready for the big land rush at midnight.

Then the sun went down and the land of promise on the Iowa shore became dim in the twilight. For many this was the most important sunset of their lives. After what seemed an interminable period, midnight struck and the invasion of the Iowa country began in earnest.

Once across the river, the settlers scattered to find promising locations. A few who had already attempted to settle, and had been chased back across the river by the troops, hurried to reclaim the land they had unlawfully staked out, notably at the sites of Burlington, Davenport, and Dubuque.

It seems that only two frontiersmen landed on the shores of Jackson County on that memorable night. There were no well-established Illinois roads leading to this region, and the ruggedness of the shore was not as attractive as the flowing plain to be seen nearly everywhere else. Also, in the vicinity of the site of Sabula, there was considerable slough terrain, beyond which the would-be settlers could not see. Only the most courageous were willing to take their chances here on the rugged, trackless terrain.

James Armstrong and Alexander Reed were the holders of those first Jackson County claims. Apparently both entered the county on the same day, June 1, 1833. Armstrong staked out his claim on Mill Creek, (slightly south of site of the original Bellevue town plat), and Reed settled in Pleasant Creek valley, a few miles to the south.

Reed is credited with tilling the first soil, and during the winter of 1833-1834 it is said that he killed 75 deer.

In the autumn of the same year William Jonas, David Segar, Thomas Nicholson, and William Dyas arrived and staked claims, becoming farmer-neighbors of Armstrong. John and James White settled in Pleasant Creek valley next to Reed's place, probably in the spring of 1834.

The Settlers Come In

In February 1834 Dubuque was the scene of considerable excitement when four Winnebago Indians arrived with rich specimens of lead ore. The Indians said they had found the lead in Maquoketa River country about 30 miles southwest of Dubuque. No Dubuque resident had ever been in that region, and rumors spread over the little settlement that the territory was enormously rich in lead. Gy Morrison, who spoke the Winnebago tongue, bargained with the Indians to show him the spot where the lead had been found. For this information he gave each of them a blanket, some tobacco, powder, bright calico, and a few trinkets.

By February 10 a small party had been organized to explore the supposed lead bonanza. Besides Morrison, there were five white men: Ben Beardsley, Leroy Jackson, Thomas Brazier, Jesse Harrison, and William A. Warren, the last-named destined to become a famous figure in Jackson County's history. The party's equipment consisted of two pack burros, a quantity of mining equipment, and provisions for ten days.

The prospectors left Dubuque elated by what they thought were fine prospects, but worried about the dangers of the trail. Their path lay across Sioux country, and the Sioux were enemies of the Winnebagos who lived in Jackson County territory.

The first day's journey brought the little band to the falls in the North Fork of the Maquoketa River at a point on which later grew the town of Cascade. The next day, as their trail angled back toward the southeast, they reached the site of Canton and camped for the night.

On the morning of February 12 their aspirations suffered a setback. Ten inches of snow had fallen during the night and the thermometer registered 20 degrees below zero. Harrison and Brazier, both of whom had dependents at home in Dubuque, argued against going on, but the Indians said there were only about nine miles more to go, and the party continued. About two o'clock in the afternoon they reached the spot where the lead had been discovered, in what is now northeastern Monmouth Township.

Here the Indians began raking the snow from a pile containing more than a ton of float ore which they had gathered from the surrounding hillsides and ravines. With eyes popping almost out of their heads, five of the prospectors unloaded the burros and began staking off claims. Jesse Harrison, on the contrary, calmly wrapped himself in a buffalo robe and rested on the snow. When the others had finished, Harrison claimed the remainder of the likely-looking lead country.

That night the party camped under a shelving rock, ate

their supper, and settled back contentedly to dream of the wealth that would soon be theirs. But their dreams were dispelled when one of the Indians, returning to camp with a deer he had shot, brought the news that a band of 20 Sioux braves had camped not more than a mile away. Panic took hold of the men as Morrison explained that if they were caught by the Sioux in company with the Winnebagos they would all be killed.

The Winnebago guides did not wait to find out whether or not Morrison's words were true. Snatching up their personal belongings, they left the camp. A heated discussion ensued around the campfire. Harrison and Brazier urged the others to put out the fire and try to make their way to the Mississippi River, but the majority agreed that an attempt to travel in the trackless wilderness during the bitter cold night would be suicidal. Instead of retreating, the explorers began rolling logs together in front of the shelter to form a breastwork. Firewood was collected and the condition of all guns was checked.

At daybreak the weary party was startled by sounds of shooting and yelling. Soon the Sioux braves appeared, marching in single file straight for the white men's camp. The nervous fingers of the prospectors trembled on the triggers of their rifles as they eyed the approach of the Indians.

Realizing that perhaps the warriors meant no harm, Morrison, the interpreter, held his hand high in the sign of friendship and went out to meet them. Fortunately his guess had been correct, and soon the white men and braves were shaking hands all around. Later they dined on fresh venison. The deer hunt had caused the noise which aroused and frightened the already nervous prospectors.

The leader of the Sioux band offered to lead the explorers to an Indian trail leading to the Mississippi River, and they started off under slate-covered skies. That evening as dusk settled around them they reached the Maquoketa, and discovered an Indian camp a short distance beyond on the banks of the river. Here they were treated to a meal of hominy, venison, and wild turkey, and were given a wigwam for sleeping quarters.

Next morning, refreshed and in good spirits, the Dubuquers continued with the Sioux band to the site of what later became the town of Andrew. Here the main Indian trail to the Mississippi River began. At this point the procession halted, and the peace pipe was passed among them. Finally bidding farewell to their guides, the mining party hurried on to the site of Bellevue, where the Indians had informed them they would find a few white settlers. Nearly

The Settlers Come In

out of provisions, they made the best time possible and arrived at dusk.

Unfortunately it was too dark to locate the settlers' cabins. The prospectors took refuge in the council room of the former Indian village, where they spread their blankets on the ground, ate a scanty supper, and slept fitfully through the night.

Next morning, disheartened and hungry, the mining party had packed up burros and were preparing to leave when they sighted a settler driving an ox team. The newcomer proved to be William Jonas, who, after hearing their story, invited them to his cabin. Thence after a short rest the party continued toward Dubuque, where they arrived about sundown.

In the spring of 1834, when new leaves and green grass made the country again inviting, most of the party returned to work their claims. But the country's entire appearance had so changed with the coming of spring that they could not find the landmarks they had formerly observed. Their provisions had nearly run out when, returning to Dubuque, they abandoned the whole project.

A few years later W. A. Warren stayed overnight on the farm claim of Harry Luncheon. It seemed to Warren that something about the place was familiar, and while looking around he found a scar on the bark of an old tree. Ripping off a piece of the bark, he uncovered a blaze made by Morrison and Brazier to mark a corner of their lead claims. Later the whole district was prospected, but no worth-while amount of lead ore was ever found there.

One of the settlers of 1835 was John D. Bell. Bell took a liking for a gap, or recess, in the bluffs along the river and decided a town should be built there. At the outer edges of this recess, which began about 40 feet back from the water, the hills and bluffs rose sharply, one of them 250 feet above the water. From here the Mississippi River and its valley could be seen for many miles. A long, heavily wooded island -- later named Seward Island -- lay between the townsite and the Illinois shore.

In 1835 Bell had a town platted at this point. He named it Bellview, for himself. Later the spelling was changed to the French Belle Vue, but the two words were soon united and became Bellevue.

During the same year more settlers arrived and either began farming nearby or built cabins and stores on Bell's townsite. One of these was Peter Dutell, who in 1836 built and for one year operated the first hotel in Jackson County. This two-story frame structure later became widely known as the headquarters of a gang of thieves and counterfeiters.

The Settlers Come In

In 1836 a post office was established and John Bell became the first postmaster in his own town. Six miles to the north, Vincent Smith began an Iowa-Illinois ferry service, with the Illinois landing close to the mouth of the Fever River.

J. K. Moss was another pioneer of 1836. He opened the first store at Bellevue. In the same year a man named Kin-kaid built a grist mill there. John Bell built the first sawmill in the vicinity, and Nic Jefferson opened Bellevue's second store.

In contrast to the rugged terrain of Bellevue, the first settlers on the site of Sabula beheld a broad plains country. Close to the river were extensive swamplands which were subject to yearly overflow, but the spot was the only feasible site for a town or a steamboat landing between Bellevue and Clinton.

Isaac Dorman and a man named Hinkley were Sabula's first settlers, the former having crossed the Mississippi on a log in 1835 or 1836. In April of 1836 Dr. E. A. Wood, Charles H. Swan, and W. H. Brown arrived and bought out the claims of Dorman and Hinkley. Brown became U.S. mail agent. The next year Albert Henry was engaged to survey the claims and plat a town, which was first named Carrollport, for a settler who arrived in 1837. Later on Carroll acquired a bad reputation and the name of Carrollport became unpopular with the citizens, especially after some jokester or mistaken person had sent a box of goods from St. Louis, which had been labelled "Carrion Point", to a firm in the village.

The name was soon changed to Charleston, but the postal authorities objected to this for there was also a Charleston in Lee County.

In 1846, determined to have a name for their town which would be easy to pronounce and not too widely copied, the settlers began search. Looking through his dictionary, William Hubbell found the word "sabulum" (Latin for sand) and suggested its use, since the town was built on sandy soil. A lady, hearing the proposed name, suggested that "Sabula" would be more elegant, and easier to say. Her suggestion was adopted, and thus Sabula got its name -- or so the story goes.

Dr. Wood in 1836 built the first cabin on the townsite and in the same year John S. Doning started the first blacksmith shop, although James Wood (presumably no relative of the doctor) did the first work of that kind.

Doctor M. M. Maughs, who in 1836 was the first practicing physician in Bellevue, rode a mule named Joe. Joe, be-

The Settlers Come In

sides carrying the doctor on his professional trips through the county, carried also a formidable stock of the strong drugs used in those days. The doctor's saddle-bags were filled with black draughts and with liniment that would peel the bark off a hickory tree.

Joe, the mule, had a strong prejudice in favor of eating regularly. Doctor Maughs, on the other hand, exhibited a fine disregard for other people's troubles. When he felt so disposed, he threw some hay into Joe's manger, and filled his feed box with oats. At other times he let the mule learn the virtues of fasting and abnegation.

These alternate periods of feast and famine roused Joe to something close to frenzy. He tried chewing holes in the walls of his box stall, then one day hit upon the idea of attacking the fastenings of the door. As soon as he was free, he shook the dust of the doctor's stable from his hoofs and set off to find some nice, fresh grass.

Soon there came a call for Doctor Maughs, who sent his laundryman to fetch the mule. Hood Davis, the laundryman, returned with the information that old Joe was gone.

"Eaten himthelf out, hath he?" said Doctor Maughs -- who lisped when excited. "Didn't I give him a whole buthiel of oath, only day before yetherday?"

Later there came to Bellevue a doctor named Jennings. The new doctor was as neat and methodical as Maughs was sloppy and temperamental.

Hood Davis warned the doctor that he would better spruce up and clean up or this man Jennings would take all his practice away. Doctor Maughs was amazed and outraged. He banged his fist on the table and said that not even the Angel Gabriel could take his old patients away from him.

However, he did consent to trade old Joe in on a horse. Unfortunately the steed proved to be timid and excitable. One day Benjamin Evans came to town to buy some tinware and on the way home he overtook Doctor Maughs. Evans' tinware rattled. The doctor's new horse began to snort and prance. Doctor Maughs shouted for quiet but the farmer only gave his tinware an extra rattle. Away went the doctor's horse, with Doctor Maughs sawing at the bridle. Evans clattered along for a minute or two but was quickly left behind. Down the road went Maughs and his horse, the former now hanging on with no holds barred, the horse giving a fine imitation of a Derby winner approaching the wire. Eventually the horse ran himself tired, Doctor Maughs got him turned around, made his professional call, and returned to town. There he said that it was his firm purpose to shoot Mr. Evans on sight.

The Settlers Come In

Some time later the culprit appeared and went to the doctor's office. Maughs' anger was still burning bright, so he told Farmer Evans what he thought of him. This time the patient prescribed for the doctor. Evans advised Maughs to forget the entire affair. He said that he had come for medicine, not for joking.

The remainder of this story of early times in Bellevue is distinctly unpleasant. Doctor Maughs is said to have examined his patient's tongue and to have gone off, muttering unintelligible remarks, to his dispensary. He brought back some powders, for which he charged Evans one dollar.

Three weeks later Mr. Evans again came into the office, this time to complain that the powders had done him no good. Doctor Maughs stared at him as if he had been a visitant from the land of shadows -- as indeed he must have seemed to be.

"You never took that medithin!" he lisped. "It ith an impothibility!"

Evans stuck to his story that he had taken the powders as directed, and that they had had no effect on him whatever. Then he left the doctor, who stared speechlessly after him.

The significance of this interchange lay in the fact that Evans had suspected that the physician was up to mischief, and had sent the powders to a chemist in Dubuque for analysis. He had been prepared for a report that the medicine prescribed had contained something very disagreeable -- but harmless.

However, the report from Dubuque stated that the powders Doctor Maughs had given Benjamin Evans contained a deadly poison.

CHAPTER 3

ARRIVAL OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

That part of the Black Hawk Purchase that eventually became Jackson County, after being attached for a time to the Territory of Indiana and then to the Territory of Missouri, was in 1834 attached to the Territory of Michigan.

In 1834, "for legislative purposes", the Michigan Territorial Legislature created two counties from the Purchase land, simply by drawing a line due west across it. The line started at a point directly across the Mississippi River from Fort Armstrong (now Rock Island), Illinois. The land north of this line became Dubuque County, that south of it Demoiné County.

When in 1836 the Iowa country was made part of Wisconsin Territory, the legislature divided Demoiné into several smaller counties. Dubuque County, which included most of northeastern Iowa, retained for another year its original boundaries.

The first Wisconsin Territorial Legislature met in October 1836 at Belmont, in what is now the State of Wisconsin. During that first session a strong effort was made to induce the legislators to hold the next legislative session west of the Mississippi River. A capitalist from Galena, Illinois, said that if Bellevue was chosen for the meeting place and that if he was allowed to purchase half the town lots of Bellevue, he would build a capitol building there without charge to the territory.

Interested in the Galena man's proposition, the Governor of Wisconsin Territory sent a commission to examine the site. According to Parker's Iowa Handbook-1856, this spot "had always been a favorite one with the Indians, and its beautiful location caused said commissioners to select it as a commanding situation for the Capital." This was accomplished in the face of stiff opposition from the better-known and larger settlements of Dubuque, Davenport, and Burlington.

But Bellevue was never to become a capital. Knowing that frontier governments were constantly moving and that the territorial documents could literally be carried about in the Governor's hat and overcoat pockets, the town's early settlers could not be induced to part with half of their town plat. By just that much Bellevue missed being the capital of Wisconsin Territory, and Burlington was given that honor instead, for the short period of one year. In the following year Burlington became the Iowa Territorial

Capital, which it remained until 1841. This honor might also have been Bellevue's.

Aided by a slow but steady stream of immigration from the East, the pioneers of Jackson County staked out claims, erected log cabins, tilled the soil, and laid out new towns. To help the immigrants across the river and also to gain more settlers for Sabula, Isaac Dorman started running the first ferry with a landing there in 1837.

Shadrach ("Shade") Burleson settled in the same year on a claim about six miles west of the site of Maquoketa. Having brought along a secondhand prairie breaking plow from Galena, Shade began immediately to plow with a yoke of oxen. Before the first day's work was over, an important bolt on the plow sheared off. A search failed to locate a usable substitute, and Shade reluctantly decided that he would have to go to Galena. That town was 40 miles away and on the other side of the river, but it was the nearest point at which he could replace the sheared bolt.

After an early supper hastily prepared by his wife, Burleson set out afoot for Galena. He purchased the necessary bolt for the sum of ten cents, then immediately started back. He made the 80-mile trip, including two Mississippi crossings, in 24 hours!

Joseph Henry, who arrived in Jackson County in 1837, built a grist mill on his claim in the vicinity of present-day Maquoketa. Due to bad management, the mill failed and was soon abandoned. During its life, however, a few other settlers staked claims nearby. Two of them named Banner and Morse planned a town around the mill. Their paper town was called New Rochester, but they quarreled over the plans and both left the neighborhood.

First settlements were made on the sites of three towns during 1837: by John Hendley at Andrew, Samuel Cotton at Cottonville, and by the Farley brothers, Andrew and Chris, at Preston. The town of Andrew was destined soon to become the county seat. Preston got its start as a town years later when the railroad was built. Cottonville was destined to grow with the traffic on a stage road and after that slowly to become a ghost town -- when the railroad passed around it.

Meeting at Burlington on November 10, 1837, the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature was immediately presented with a bill for the division of Dubuque County into several smaller counties. At this session Jackson County was created and named for President Andrew Jackson.

Before the act was passed, boosters of Bellevue and of

Arrival of County Government

Dubuque quarreled over the proposed boundaries for their respective counties. In the original bill, Bellevue found itself located in what was almost the extreme northeastern corner of Jackson County, an arrangement that would surely prevent it from ever becoming the county seat. In order to offset this, the Bellevue boosters asked for an extra tier of townships to the north of their town. A compromise was finally made, giving Jackson County two extra townships north of the original county line. To make up for the loss, the new Dubuque County was given an extra tier on the west. Bellevue was now more nearly centrally located on a north-and-south line. Her extreme eastern position was not a serious handicap because the western and central parts of the county were sparsely settled.

The act was approved on December 21, 1837, and Bellevue was named the seat of justice of Jackson County. Captain W. A. Warren, then enrolling clerk of the House, was prominent throughout the controversy as a Bellevue booster.

When old Dubuque County had been divided, Governor Dodge of Wisconsin Territory consulted with Warren concerning the appointment of an organizing sheriff for Jackson County. Warren recommended Charles Stowell, but before the Governor had time to make the appointment, a petition was received from Bellevue, signed by many respectable citizens, requesting the appointment of W. W. Brown.

Mr. Warren was puzzled. Not only did he know that Brown was a stock thief and a member of a counterfeiting gang, but he knew that the men who had signed the petition must know the same things.

The Governor also was puzzled. Suddenly, looking over the petition, he discovered the signature of Captain Warren himself!

The explanation was simple. The signatures were genuine, but they had originally been affixed to a petition asking to have the boundaries of Jackson County changed. The boundary question had been settled while the petition was still going the rounds, and Brown, noting that everyone had lost interest in it, appropriated it for his own use. By cutting off the original heading and substituting one requesting his appointment as sheriff, he had temporarily fooled two astute politicians. The outcome of this episode was that Governor Dodge appointed Captain Warren organizing sheriff for Jackson County.

Other appointments were: J. K. Moss, probate judge, Matthias Ringer and John Forbes, justices of the peace, William Jonas, William Morden, and J. Leonard, county commissioners, and J. H. Rose, clerk of commissioners' board.

Arrival of County Government

The first duty of the county commissioners was to establish election precincts for the organizing election in June. This was accomplished at their first meeting, April 2, 1838. Six precincts were established within the limits of Jackson County and two outside, in the sparsely settled counties of Jones and Linn, which were then attached to Jackson County for governmental purposes.

After posting notices of the coming election in the larger settlements, Warren started out on horseback for the homes of the pioneers scattered all over the territory. Arriving at the Wapsipinicon River in Jones County, he found that stream a raging torrent from recent heavy rains. Warren camped on the bank that night and tried to rest with his back against a tree. He got no sleep, however, for timber wolves howled all night within a stone's throw of the fire he had built to keep warm.

In the morning Warren stripped off his clothes, tied them to his saddle and, leading his horse, swam the river. On the other side he dressed again and went on about his business, returning to Bellevue in ample time for the election.

In the spring of 1838 the county was surveyed by Colonel Thomas Cox and a man named McDaniel. Cox settled later on a farm near Maquoketa and became a political figure in the county's history. He was a Kentuckian by birth and had served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was later active in politics in the Illinois territory and was elected to the Illinois General Assembly when that Territory became a State. In 1831 and 1832 he was an outstanding Indian fighter in the Black Hawk War. He helped to survey and plat Springfield, the Illinois capital. A massive figure of a man, Cox was one of the leaders of a posse which in 1840 drove organized crime from the limits of Jackson County. It was at his suggestion that an entirely new town was surveyed and platted to become Iowa's capital city, and he is credited with naming the chosen site -- Iowa City.

Cox's death in 1844 cut short a brilliant political career. For some unknown reason he was buried in a field, with a hickory tree as the only grave-marker. In 1904 the Jackson County Historical Society found that the earth over his grave had been cultivated for many years. When the farm owner objected to having a permanent marker placed on the grave, the Society asked for and received the donation of a fine lot in Maquoketa's Mount Hope Cemetery. Cox's remains were exhumed and reinterred in the new lot on June 18, 1905. A 20-ton glacial boulder, brought six miles from a farm and placed on a concrete base, formed a permanent marker. It was dedicated with fitting ceremonies on July 4 of the same year.

Arrival of County Government

The first court session in Jackson County was held at Bellevue beginning June 18, 1838, and was presided over by Chief Justice Dunn of the Wisconsin Territorial Supreme Court. William A. Warren was the court crier; Elisha Barrett and David Hetrick were constables. There were several attorneys present, among them Stephen Hempstead, who later became Governor of Iowa, and James Churchman, who became a United States foreign minister.

The board of county commissioners met at about the same time and July 2 levied the county's first taxes -- one mill for the county fund and one-half mill for court purposes. Other business included the location of county roads and the issuing of licenses for various purposes. At this session Joseph Kirkpatrick paid \$5 for a license to operate the first ferry at Bellevue. Other ferry licenses were granted at the same time and ferriage rates across the Mississippi were established. They were: for team of horses and wagon, \$2.00; horse and rider, \$1.00; cattle, 50¢ per head or 25¢ each in a herd of three or more; footman 25 cents; a hundredweight of any merchandise, 12½¢.

In another meeting in 1838, the commissioners contracted with Heffley and Esgate for a toll bridge over Mill Creek at a cost of \$525. But that firm did not build the bridge, and later the contract was given to W. A. Warren, who did. Through some misunderstanding, however, Warren received no pay for it from the county. The bridge was operated under the toll system for awhile and later was made free to the public. This was Jackson County's first bridge.

Warren was the county's first tax collector. Taxes were paid in whatever commodity the pioneers had that could easily be resold by the tax collector. Near Sabula they were paid almost entirely in coonskins, which Warren accepted as worth 50¢ each. Near the forks of the Maquoketa River, payments were met with maple sugar. Warren then took his coonskins and maple sugar taxes to Galena, where he sold them for cash and pocketed whatever profit there might be after his expenses and the taxes were paid.

While the peculiar red tape of such a handicapped business was beginning to bind the settlers into an intimate group, more people were arriving. The first census, taken in 1838, showed 881, but two years later the figure had nearly doubled.

The first settlers on the site of Maquoketa, John E. Goodenow and Lyman Bates, arrived early in the spring of 1838. They had come from New York together and crossed the ice-bound Mississippi into Jackson County on March 9. Many other settlers arrived during the year, including Absalom Montgomery, Zalmon Livermore, and Colonel Cox. Six miles to

Arrival of County Government

the west, Shade Burleson's claim was joined by those of William Vosburg, Calvin Teeple, and L. A. F. Corbin.

John Goodenow built the first cabin on the site of Maquoketa during the year of his arrival. In one end of it he set up a trading post which housed a stock of blacksmithing tools, hardware, dry goods, clothing, harness, and sundry other articles brought from New York. Goodenow also owned a small corn-cracker, run by horsepower, with which he ground corn and wheat for the settlers. There was no equipment to separate the bran from the white meal to make what was called "bolted" flour. Sometimes the wheat was full of smut, and the result of the grinding often was an almost black flour from which the settlers made black bread. The nearest place to obtain bolted flour for making white bread was at Sage's mill, six miles north of Dubuque.

The first town to be surveyed and platted in the Maquoketa vicinity was Bridgeport, a dream town of Thomas Cox. It was situated about two miles northeast of present-day Maquoketa. A few houses were built there, but Bridgeport was never an active town, although at one time it had a post office.

John D. Bell and William Sublett built a sawmill at Bellevue in 1838, and at Sabula Luther H. Steen was born, first white child born in that town.

In June of the same year, Iowa Territory was created and there was general rejoicing on the west side of the Mississippi. Before the news arrived, T. P. Burnett of Wisconsin Territory was still stumping Jackson County in his campaign for a seat in Congress. Late June found him at Bellevue, where court had been adjourned to hear his speech. Just as Burnett had gotten nicely warmed to his subject, a riverboat landed at Bellevue, bringing the news of Iowa's new status as a Territory. Upon hearing this, Burnett hurriedly excused himself and went back across the Mississippi. There was no use in wasting time to get votes in Bellevue now, for it was no longer part of Wisconsin Territory.

When the county was officially organized in 1838, the first officers elected were William Jonas, E. A. Wood, and James Kelley, commissioners; John Howe, recorder; John Sublett, treasurer; James Mallard, commissioners' clerk; James Hanby, assessor; James Kirkpatrick, coroner; and W. A. Warren, sheriff.

In the spring of 1839 a Methodist class was formed at Maquoketa and Reverend William Simpson held the first religious services there in a log cabin near the southeast corner of Main and Platt Streets. Members of this class were Thomas Wright, the leader, Mrs. Rachel Wright, Amasa and Adaline Goodenow Nims, and a Mrs. Clark.

Arrival of County Government

Amasa Nims and Adaline Goodenow, daughter of John Goodenow, were the first couple to be married at Maquoketa, and their firstborn, Wesley Nims, was the first child born there.

Lyman Bates of Maquoketa, in 1839, bought the finest wedding ensemble to be had for miles around -- at the trading post of his friend and co-settler, John Goodenow. He carefully hung up the handsome suit and fine boots at his boarding house, the 20 by 26 log cabin known as Goodenow's Hotel.

One evening, a few days before his wedding, a couple of young men drove into town from the east with a gray team and stopped for the night at Goodenow's Hotel. The next morning they paid their bill and departed. Bates himself rode with them as far as Canton, where he had to attend to some business.

Returning in the evening, however, he was enraged to find that his pride and joy, the wedding outfit, was missing. He guessed at once that it had ridden to Canton with him and had gone west from there with the strangers. The same evening, Bates was accosted by two other strangers, who inquired whether he had seen anyone with a team of gray horses. Bates not only told the strangers about the gray horses but also about his missing wedding outfit, and asked them to try to recover it if they found the thieves and the horses.

A few days later the men returned with the gray team but with bad news for Bates. The thieves had tried to sell the wedding outfit, claiming they had bought it at auction and that it wouldn't fit either of them. But no one would buy it, so they had taken it on west with them.

Bates was crestfallen. His friend, Goodenow, didn't have another wedding outfit in stock, and the day of the wedding was at hand. But soon the prospective bridegroom convinced himself that the girl was what really counted. He faced the preacher with a smile on his face, a large patch on one leg of his pants, holes in his boot toes, and happiness in his heart. The name of the bride is not available.

Bellevue's first blacksmith shop was started by Hawkins, Ziegler, and Whittemore in 1839. Charleston, by then a gay river town, had a dancing school with a teacher named Paddleford. As if that were not enough for the very small settlement, a rival dancing class called the "Cotillion Party" was organized in 1840 under another teacher.

In September 1839 a Methodist Episcopal Society was organized at the home of William Hubbell. Besides the Hubbells,

Arrival of County Government

other members of the society at that meeting were James and Sophia Murphy, James Canfield, and the Smith family. Reverend B. H. Cartwright delivered the sermon and helped the little group to organize. He served as their pastor for two years.

CHAPTER 4

DARK CLOUDS OVER JACKSON COUNTY

During a period of about two and a half years, beginning in the fall of 1837 and ending in the spring of 1840, there occurred in Jackson County a series of events which caused all but the hardiest to shun the region. Before it was over, neighbor became pitted against neighbor; many friends of long standing became bitter enemies; and the bloodiest play but one in the whole history of the State of Iowa had been enacted at Bellevue.

This sanguinary episode became known as the Bellevue War. Enough words have been written about this single phase of Jackson County's history to crowd the covers of several volumes. Some accounts, and especially the one written by a pioneer called Farmer Buckhorn, differ from the official story as told by Sheriff Warren in the History of Jackson County (1879). The difference in each case, however, has been one of personal opinion concerning the character of one man, William W. Brown. Since the details of Warren's story have not been disputed, and because his version of the Bellevue War and related events appears to be more comprehensive than any other single account, his story is summarized in these pages.

It looked like a red-letter day for Bellevue when, late in 1837, a large immigrant party arrived in that town from Coldwater, Michigan. The members of the party were well-dressed, owned splendid horses and equipage, and seemed possessed of considerable wealth.

Their leader, William W. Brown, was a man of apparent refinement. He was an engaging talker, a charming host, and a capable leader of men. His wife was a handsome woman. Together they endeared themselves to the townspeople by their benevolence to the poor, their kindness to children, and their hospitality to all.

The Brown party's first acts were to purchase town lots and build houses, to the delight of the earlier settlers. Brown purchased the hotel which Peter Dutell had built in 1835, and on one of his lots erected a large frame building to house a dry goods store and meat market. In the latter venture he was assisted by J. L. Burtis, who did the butchering while Brown operated the market.

The hard-working people of Bellevue and Jackson County approved more and more of Brown, who extended credit at his store to anyone desiring it. If payments were hard to make,

Brown gave additional time. It was this lenient policy, coupled with the apparent ease with which Brown always made money, that first served to arouse suspicion regarding his dealings.

During the winter of 1837-1838, Brown employed 20 men, mostly from his own party, to cut wood on Seward Island, which was promptly dubbed "Cut Off" Island by the woodchoppers. By the spring of 1838 there were 1,000 cords of wood ready for the riverboat trade. At the same time, counterfeit money began to appear in Bellevue, and much of it was traced to the woodchoppers. In adjoining counties and states, horses and cattle were stolen. Many of these were traced to Bellevue and points west. Bellevue, in fact, appeared to be a trading point for a huge ring of outlaws. Horses stolen in Illinois and Wisconsin were brought across the Mississippi River to Bellevue and sold farther west, making their recovery almost impossible.

About March 1838 a member of the Brown party named Godfrey drove into Bellevue from the south with a magnificent team of horses. Sheriff Warren arrested him on suspicion of horse stealing. Insisting that he had bought the horses in Missouri, Godfrey demanded to be taken before Brown, who in the meantime had been made a magistrate by the people of Bellevue. Declaring that there was no evidence on which to hold Godfrey prisoner, Brown advised the circulation of printed handbills carrying a description of the team. If the horses were not claimed within 30 days, they were to be returned to Godfrey.

This was done, and a few days later a man named Jenkins came to Bellevue looking for the horses, which he positively identified by certain scars and marks. With the sheriff and Brown, Jenkins went to the stable where the horses were kept and showed them marks which Brown claimed he had not noticed.

Drawing a revolver, Jenkins then demanded to see the thief and swore to rid the country of him. He was led towards the river, near which Godfrey was piling cordwood. When the party was a short distance away, Godfrey looked up. Seeing the sheriff, the magistrate, and the stranger with drawn revolver, Godfrey apparently sensed danger and started to run. Jenkins gave chase, firing his pistol as he ran. At the third shot Godfrey screamed and fell, but he managed to get up and continue in flight. Reaching the river, he bounded over the ice towards the island while Jenkins emptied the pistol at him.

Jenkins stated that at least three of his shots must have gone true, and people agreed that Godfrey's escape was improbable, since he was mortally wounded. Paying the stable bill, Jenkins took the horses and departed, promising

the townspeople the aid of 50 men whenever they were needed to help rid the town of thieves. When Jenkins had gone, the settlers instituted an exhaustive search for Godfrey, but he could not be found. He never returned to Bellevue.

A few days after this affair, the Democrats held a county caucus to nominate their representative to the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature. Colonel Thomas Cox, who already had a brilliant legislative and military record, was conceded an easy victory by lesser political lights. But Brown also had his hat in the ring and, to the surprise of Cox and his followers, received the nomination by a two to one vote. Thoroughly angered by his loss, Cox denounced Brown and his men as horse thieves and counterfeiters.

While the excitement was still high, two men appeared and asked the whereabouts of the team which had been advertised in the circulars. One of the strangers was the Honorable E. Brigham, with whom Colonel Cox had served in the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature. Brigham positively identified the horses which Jenkins had claimed, and now the story seemed clear to Warren and Cox. Jenkins had been a stooge for Brown; his pistol had been loaded with blanks, enabling Godfrey to escape unharmed and at the same time vindicating Brown and further tightening his hold on the townspeople.

Cox immediately declared open war on Brown, with whom he had previously been friendly. A warrant was sworn out for Brown's arrest, but local disagreements were strong. Most of the people favored Brown and helped to prevent the arrest. Brigham and his friend left in disgust, and the friends of Colonel Cox persuaded him to go home. This one incident branded Bellevue as Brown's town.

A short time after this, a man named Pearce came to Bellevue from New York. He bought a number of town lots but, learning of the ruffians in Bellevue, sold them at once to Brown. He didn't want to stay there and was going back East.

Taking the river trail towards Sabula, Pearce departed. He had been gone but a short while when an Illinois sheriff arrived looking for him. Pearce, he said, had used counterfeit money at Galena. Suspecting that the money with which Pearce had paid for the Bellevue town lots also was counterfeit, Sheriff Warren started out in hot pursuit of Pearce. Arriving at Sabula, he learned that the culprit had crossed the river to Savanna. Warren, with no authority in Illinois, crossed the Mississippi and found Pearce eating breakfast at a Savanna hotel.

Coolly the counterfeiter demanded to know by what right

an Iowa sheriff could arrest him in Illinois. Warren prodded Pearce with a gun, said that was his authority, and that any question of it might cost Pearce his life.

Searching his prisoner, Warren found \$8,000 in counterfeit and \$4,000 in legal money sewed into the collar of his overcoat. Sealing it all, the sheriff mailed the money to a justice of the peace in Galena, then returned to Bellevue with Pearce. Soon a mob gathered, most of whom had been the victims of cash transactions with Pearce. Fearing that the mob would get out of hand, Sheriff Warren sent the prisoner back to Galena under guard.

But Pearce did not pay for his crime. At Galena he pleaded not guilty. His lawyer demanded and received the \$4,000 in legal tender taken from the prisoner and then furnished bail for him. Pearce disappeared as soon as he was freed. Through a technicality the security was not paid.

Back in Bellevue, Pearce's victims turned on Brown, believing that he had been in league with Pearce to swindle them out of their real estate. Brown returned most of the money the settlers had lost, and won back their confidence. He always made good any counterfeit money received in change at his store. This practice had turned potential enemies into friends and friends into loyal boosters, so that whenever Brown had trouble with local authorities, many Jackson County citizens were ready to take his part.

However, the people of Bellevue soon noticed that the firm of Brown and Burtis could not possibly supply all their customers with meat from the livestock that they bought from local farmers. They simply didn't buy as much as they sold, but for a long time Brown's personal charm and benevolence in business dealings caused the settlers to hold their tongues.

On one occasion, Tom Davis, a farmer, missed a valuable yoke of fat oxen which he had intended to sell at Dubuque. They had been stolen during a heavy rain, and tracks were found leading toward Bellevue. The trail ended on a rocky hill.

Davis went on to Bellevue and reported his loss, and Brown at once offered to aid in the search for the cattle. To clear himself, he took Davis to his slaughterhouse, where the victim examined four beeves which Burtis had killed the evening before. Davis disclaimed ownership of any of them.

On a tip which named Davis' neighbor, Sam Groff, and a member of the Brown gang as the thieves, Sheriff Warren discovered the oxen in South Mill Creek ravine. Davis sold them on the spot to Brown and Burtis for \$125.

Dark Clouds Over Jackson County

Davis declined to prosecute his neighbor, but the two became bitter enemies. Davis publicly branded Groff as a cattle thief, and later the two got into a lawsuit over a piece of land which Davis held but which Groff claimed as his own. The latter retained William Brown as counsel. Brown informed Groff that there wasn't a chance of winning the case, and at the trial, held in April 1839, one pioneer testified that Brown had told his client the best thing to do was to shoot Davis.

Groff appeared in court the first day with a rifle, said to have been loaned him by Brown, and swore that it would be the death of Davis. Forewarned of Groff's intentions, Davis replied that Groff was a coward and wouldn't shoot, except in the back.

Later that day, as Davis walked along Front Street, Groff, resting his gun on a picket fence, shot Davis in the back and killed him. Groff was taken to the blacksmith shop where irons were made for him, for Bellevue boasted no jail. The empaneling of a disinterested jury was almost impossible, for almost everyone had already formed a strong opinion concerning Groff's guilt or innocence. The evidence was overwhelmingly in favor of the prosecution.

All of the townspeople expected a verdict of guilty. It is easy to imagine, then, the astonishment of the entire courtroom audience when the jury returned after only an hour's deliberation and pronounced the prisoner not guilty!

Infuriated by the jury's decision, the State's Attorney demanded another poll of the jurors, who affirmed their original verdict. The prosecutor with harsh words branded the jurors as perjurers and moved that the decision be set aside. The judge denied the motion, however, and the prisoner was set free. That night friends of Davis hung the jury in effigy and declared their verdict to be a rank miscarriage of justice. One good result of the trial was that Groff left the county and never returned.

During the same year, Sheriff Warren, J. K. Moss, and Thomas Cox received a call to help the citizens of Jones and Cedar Counties to form a Citizen's Association for mutual protection against the thieves and counterfeiters, who were becoming increasingly active in that region.

On their way to the meeting place, the trio stopped at the cabin of Joshua Bear and asked him to join them. Bear accepted the invitation, but before they left the cabin, he showed the others a questionable \$10 bill he had received from "One-Thumbed Thompson" (or Burton), a well-known member of Brown's party. Together the four men started out for the Jones County rendezvous, but soon they stumbled upon the

Dark Clouds Over Jackson County

partially devoured carcass of a horse, which indicated the presence of wolves in the vicinity. The Bellevue men went on, but Bear stayed to hunt.

The organization meeting took very little time, and soon Warren, Cox, and Moss were on their way back to Bellevue. Returning to the scene of their camp the night before, they found Bear, who had bagged 13 wolves in the meanwhile. He had sold some of the hides to a stranger for \$15 in gold.

Bear accompanied the others to Bellevue, where they found the "gold" to be valueless. Bear traced the wolf skins to Brown's dry goods store, where Brown agreed to give up the hides. He said he knew the men who sold them to him, and that they would make good on the worthless money. Finally, upon receipt of Bear's sworn statement that the coins he produced were the ones he had actually received in payment for the hides, Brown paid Bear \$15 in valid money for them, and the incident was forgotten.

Sometime in 1839, James Thompson, who had been in business at Savanna, Illinois, became a member of the Brown gang. Well-educated and a good leader, he was soon looked upon as Brown's right-hand man. He had connections with Thompson's in Philadelphia, Pa., and went there with a quantity of counterfeit money which he exchanged for valid currency. Next he turned to scouring the country for livestock, which he purchased with counterfeit money. Animals bought in this manner were turned over to lesser gang members, who usually drove them out of the state before the seller even suspected that he had been duped.

At one time Thompson purchased five yoke of oxen from a farmer named Gillett, who hoarded the money. Hearing some time later of the counterfeit gang's operations, Gillett examined the money and discovered it to be worthless.

The angry farmer traced the oxen to the farm of David Zigler in what later became Tete des Morts Township. Obtaining a writ of replevin at Dubuque, Gillett and Zigler (the latter was quite innocent) drove the oxen to Bellevue, confronted Thompson with the evidence, and had him arrested. When the trial was held, however, Thompson produced so many witnesses to swear he was in Davenport with them at the time of the sale that the jury freed Thompson.

Later on Brown's chief lieutenant and his confederates passed counterfeit bills in Dubuque, then returned to Bellevue. Hot on their trail came Sheriff Cummins of Dubuque County. Thompson had not personally handled any of the spurious money; Sheriff Warren decided that the men Cummins wanted were Aaron Long and a man named Denison. These two they found with Brown at his hotel.

Dark Clouds Over Jackson County

Seeing the officers coming, Denison and Long hastily retreated up the stairway. James Mitchell and Henderson Palmer of Bellevue joined in the chase. When the pursuers entered the door of the hotel, the bandits started shooting. The first bullet tore the collar of Mitchell's coat. With pistols drawn, the two sheriffs demanded that Denison and Long surrender. Disclaiming any intention of killing, the two gave up and were arrested. Sheriff Warren also arrested both Brown and Thompson on suspicion of counterfeiting.

Sheriff Cummins, assisted by Mitchell and Palmer, took the four men to Dubuque for trial, where Thompson was dismissed for lack of evidence. The cases against Brown, Denison, and Long were dismissed due to technicalities in the indictment. Following this incident the followers of Brown and Thompson threatened Mitchell and Palmer with disaster if they remained in Bellevue. But the two men stayed.

A short time after this episode, James Thompson and a confederate named Chichester were caught red-handed in a robbery and were arrested, only to be released when Brown furnished bond for them.

By this time, late in the autumn of 1839, many of the citizens of Bellevue and Jackson County were beginning to wake from the long sleep into which Brown had apparently hypnotized them. The day after the arrest of the would-be robbers, Bellevue citizens held a meeting at the store of J. K. Moss to discuss ways and means of cleaning out the gang. Because a small majority of the townspeople still sympathized with Brown, it was decided to invite him to the meeting and ask him to cooperate in ending the reign of lawlessness.

Brown appeared at the meeting in the company of James Thompson. At sight of the latter, James Mitchell jumped to his feet and said to Brown: "You are here by invitation, and, while you may harbor and protect counterfeiters and robbers, you have no authority nor permission to bring them to this meeting. Mr. Thompson can retire." Thompson angrily drew his revolver, but Henderson Palmer grabbed him, took the weapon, and forcibly put him out of the hall. Thompson soon returned with a dozen members of the gang, who blasphemed the assembled citizens and appeared ready to start shooting when Brown intervened with an eloquent appeal to prevent bloodshed. He couldn't, however, silence Thompson's tongue.

"Mitchell, you are a marked man," Thompson declared, "and if I ever catch you alone, the language you used to-night shall be atoned for." With these ominous words, Thompson and his mob left the store.

Dark Clouds Over Jackson County

The citizens explained the purpose of the meeting to Brown, showed him their plans, and expressed confidence that with his help they could rid the county of the bandit mob. Brown waited until they had finished, then addressed them:

"Gentlemen, I would to God I could comply with your request, and that I might stand in your estimation tonight as I did when first I came among you. Your confidence and kindness in making this proposition is fully appreciated, and, were it in my power, I would gladly accept it. But it is impossible. It would be no use for me to try to conceal from you the relation in which I stand to these men, and if by counsel I can prevail upon them to leave and seek honorable occupation elsewhere, I will do so."

Having thus spoken, Brown left the assembly. The next morning most of the gang at the hotel shouldered axes and went out to the island to cut wood. Brown expressed the opinion that he would be very glad if they never came back to Bellevue, and the citizens were somewhat relieved.

On January 8, 1840, while the people of Bellevue were celebrating the battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812, the best citizens gathered at the new hotel for the grand ball. Meanwhile another meeting was held in the back room of a saloon. James Thompson was the leader of this one and its purpose was to plan the robbing of the home of James Mitchell while that gentleman danced at the hotel. Sheriff Warren lay ill in his home and the time seemed right.

Going to Mitchell's house, Thompson's mob removed all furniture and valuables, loaded them into wagons and ferried the loot across the river. Upstairs, Thompson himself encountered the only person left in the house, a Miss Hadley, who screamed with fright at the sight of him and ran from the house.

Learning of the robbery, Mitchell borrowed a pistol from Tom Sublett and went alone to seek out James Thompson, who knew that a showdown was now inevitable. No one attempted to stop Mitchell, though they well knew his purpose. Thompson's friends tried to get him to leave town, but he refused to go.

Seeing Mitchell coming down the street, Thompson advanced slowly and uncertainly to meet him. They were only about three feet apart when Thompson raised his pistol with one hand and struck at Mitchell with a bowie knife in the other. Like lightning Mitchell raised his revolver and fired. It was impossible to miss at that distance, and Thompson slumped to the ground, fatally injured.

Mitchell went back to the ballroom and told his story

to the hushed group of dancers and celebrants. His arrival was followed by the appearance of a heavily armed mob of Thompson's followers, this time led personally by W. W. Brown. Most of the men attending the ball had left the hotel to procure arms, and the mob shouldered aside Deputy James Hanby, who attempted to halt them. The lower floor of the hotel was deserted when the mob came in. Mitchell, the ladies, and the few men already armed who had stayed had taken refuge upstairs.

Ordering his men to follow, Brown started up the staircase, but pulled up short when the clear-cut voice of Mitchell, standing at the head of the stairs, warned him that if he took another step he would be a dead man. Brown and his companions hastily scattered out of range of Mitchell's pistol. They had already seen gruesome evidence that he meant business.

Calling to the women upstairs to come down, the mob threatened to burn the hotel. When the women refused and remained where they were, the gang began firing through the floor. Everything was in a state of bedlam when the ailing sheriff arrived in a cutter driven by Deputy Hanby. Warren promised that he would personally take charge of Mitchell and be responsible for his presence until he could be tried for the killing of Thompson. Brown agreed to that, and his men noisily dispersed.

Mitchell was put in irons and placed under guard in his own house to await the next term of court. Brown's men again went to the island to cut wood, and peace reigned in the little settlement. But not for long.

When a quantity of wood had been cut and hauled to the riverbank, Brown's men were left idle. They reverted to their old life of gambling and whiskey-drinking, and soon a number of them hatched a plot designed to end the mortal existence of James Mitchell.

Finding that the guard in Mitchell's house had been strengthened, the mob wisely decided not to storm the house as originally planned. Instead they hit upon the idea of blowing the house to splinters with a keg of powder, a plot which, had it been carried through successfully, would undoubtedly have caused the deaths of Mitchell, several guards, Mitchell's two sisters, his wife and daughter, and Miss Hadley. Fortunately for the house's occupants, Lyman Wells was one of the plotters. Wells was ostensibly in league with the gang, but in reality was an informer for Sheriff Warren and other officials.

Breaking into the store of J. K. Moss, the mob stole a 15-pound keg of powder which Wells was to plant in the cel-

Dark Clouds Over Jackson County

lar of Mitchell's house while the gang stood watch. Wells seemingly carried out his task and laid a trail of powder to the outside which was to be lit to run through the cellar to the powder keg. When the time came to ignite the powder trail, the mob's drunken courage deserted them. Not one of them cared to have the blood of so many innocent persons on his hands. Lots were cast and the duty fell to Chichester, who lighted the powder and ran.

Instead of the violent explosion everyone but Wells expected, there was a small blast inside the basement. Wells had filled a small bottle with powder and laid the trail into its mouth. The keg was placed out of harm's way.

Although all the circumstances of the case were known, nothing was done about it at the time, for Wells' presence among the gang was too valuable to be exposed. He was the only witness the authorities had, and without an indisputable witness, Brown and his mob would have laughed at any attempt to bring them to justice. Meanwhile the situation grew worse.

The last episode before the beginning of the Bellevue War occurred in March when the owner of a team of horses, stolen from near Freeport, Illinois, the year before, traced them to the farm of William Graham, north of Bellevue. Graham had bought the team from Brown. The owner, a Mr. Spencer, and a detective named Baker came from Freeport to get the horses. At Bellevue, Sheriff Warren and J. K. Moss joined them and went to the Graham farm, where Graham showed them the horses. Spencer had previously described them beyond a reasonable doubt.

Harnessing the team, the four drove to Bellevue and confronted Brown with their story. With poise and calm Brown offered to prove that two of his men had owned the horses; that they were formerly Missouri farmers and had raised the team from the moment they had been born. Furthermore, he wanted to know, did they think he would be such a consummate ass as to sell stolen property so close to home? Baker and Spencer began to see that it was no ordinary rascal with whom they had to deal.

The matter finally went to court, where Brown was cleared, as usual. Baker denounced Brown as the leader of an infamous gang known all over the State of Illinois for their many crimes. He vowed that he (Baker) would go back to Illinois to raise a sufficient force to return to Bellevue, retrieve the horses, and hang Brown and his bandits.

No sooner had Baker finished speaking than William Fox and six others of the gang, who had appeared on the scene, leaped to their feet with drawn revolvers and demanded that

Baker eat his words or prepare to die. But Baker was a courageous man. He bade open defiance to the mob. He had known Fox during their early boyhood, when both had lived on Indiana farms. After a short and sharp exchange of left-handed compliments between Baker and Fox, the mob left sullenly without committing any acts of violence.

Spencer and Baker, deciding that "justice was a rare commodity in Bellevue", returned without the horses to their homes in Illinois.

CHAPTER 5

THE BELLEVUE WAR

During late 1839 and early 1840 the depredations of the Brown gang became so open and so free from punishment that many of the citizens in Bellevue and vicinity openly despaired. They offered their hard-won claims and property for sale at great sacrifice to get enough money to move away, but there were no buyers. Evidently the bandit mob expected them to abandon their claims outright. To most local citizens the law in Bellevue seemed to be unenforceable, and real estate was considered an unsafe investment.

In March of 1840 a committee composed of Anson Harrington, John Sublett, William Dyas, and Sheriff Warren conferred at Dubuque with Prosecuting Attorney James Crawford and District Judge T. S. Wilson concerning ways and means of combatting the terrorists.

After the meeting, Anson Harrington drew up an information naming W. W. Brown, William Fox, Aaron Long, and 20 others as being banded together for fraudulent purposes, namely: the passing of counterfeit money, the stealing of livestock, the robbing of honest settlers, and other crimes. Justice of the Peace Charles Harris of Dubuque issued a warrant for their arrest and placed it in the hands of Sheriff Warren for service.

By some unknown means, the gang got word of what was going on at Dubuque before the committee got back to Bellevue, where, with most of the gang gathered around yelling encouragement, Brown openly defied the sheriff to arrest him or any other person named in the warrant.

But Warren had a job to do. While he was reading the warrant to Brown, the mob shouted threats against the person of Warren or anyone else who dared to arrest them. Demanding and getting silence, Brown told his gang that Sheriff Warren was there only in the performance of his duty; that they should wreak their vengeance upon Anson Harrington, who had filed the information.

With savage yells the mob departed in search of Harrington. However, Brown's wife had warned Harrington of the mob's drunken state, and fearing for his life had urged him to leave town. By the time Warren had finished reading the warrant to Brown, Harrington was already across the river and in Illinois. To Brown's credit it may be added that he was aware of Harrington's absence at the time he told the mob they should search for him. He knew his gang would be disappointed upon not finding Harrington, and warned Warren

The Bellevue War

that he could not be responsible for their actions if they returned and found their leader still in the company of the sheriff. If Warren regarded his own life as precious, Brown said, he should leave at once.

While Warren hesitated and still wondered what to do, Mrs. Brown appeared, grabbed his arm, took him to the back door of their house, and pleaded:

"Run for your life! They are coming and will kill you!"

Hearing the howling mob coming, Warren swiftly got out of their way.

The issue for Brown now was clearly cut. He had created a murderous, many-headed monster and was resolved to stay with it until it triumphed over the forces of law or was itself destroyed.

The morning after reading the warrant, Warren sent a note to Brown, asking for a private interview. Brown received the bearer kindly and agreed to a meeting. Brown made known that he was willing to give himself up if Warren would agree to strike the rest of the names from the warrant. His mob, he knew, had sworn that they would never be taken alive and that any attempt to arrest them would mean bloodshed.

Warren and many of the Bellevue citizens were unsatisfied with Brown's offer of self-surrender. They were all too familiar with Brown's cleverness in escaping punishment for the crimes he and his gang had committed. There could be no peace until the entire gang had been removed. Accordingly a secret meeting was held in Moss' store the same evening to devise a plan. David G. Bates, Colonel Thomas Cox, H. K. Magoon, Thomas J. Parks, and William Morden attended the meeting together with other prominent citizens of Bellevue. A suggestion was made that if a number of the county's most prominent men were to come to Bellevue and demand that Brown and his men surrender, they might do so without attempting to fight.

This plan was adopted, and Sheriff Warren set out to round up as big a force as he could get from all over the county. But he had barely mounted to the saddle when he saw in front of Brown's Hotel a red flag bearing the ominous warning:

"VICTORY OR DEATH!"

Brown and his spies had found out about the plan and were ready for it. Despite this defiance, Sheriff Warren still hoped to organize a posse so strong that Brown's men

The Bellevue War

would be willing to give up without a struggle. He deputized Thomas Cox to select 40 men, see that they were armed, and report to him at Bellevue on the morning of April 1, 1840.

The two then scoured the county for volunteers. This ended in disappointment for the lawmen. Even in Bellevue fully half the settlers still believed that Brown was a much-persecuted martyr, though they had little love for his gang. Outside of the town the leading men of the county sympathized with Brown and refused to have anything to do with either Cox or Warren. At Maquoketa, it has been said, Cox's temper flared over the refusal of local citizens to help rid the county of the outlaw gang, and he threatened Anson Wilson that when they had settled with Brown, he (Wilson) would be next on their list. The only persons willing to cooperate were those who had been victimized by the mob.

James McCabe was the sole volunteer from Sabula. On the morning of April 1, he and Sheriff Warren started toward Bellevue at daylight, picked up a few more volunteers on the way, and arrived at their destination about 9:30 a.m. There they found Colonel Cox and his posse quartered about four blocks from Brown's Hotel. Other volunteers had arrived, and the posse now numbered about 80, mostly Bellevue men. Forty of these volunteers were heavily armed.

Anson Harrington came back from Illinois with a small body of armed men to swell the posse's ranks. His party defiantly rode down the street toward the spot where Brown's men promenaded with guns on their shoulders. When the gang caught sight of Harrington, it looked for a few moments as if the fight was about to begin, but Brown called to his men to start nothing. Seeing that a huge posse was being assembled, the mob took refuge in the hotel.

Sheriff Warren went alone to Brown's Hotel, where Brown received him and bade his men to be quiet until their business was finished. Warren again called together the men whose names were on the warrant and reread it to them.

When he had finished, Brown inquired of the sheriff just what he proposed doing, to which Warren replied that he intended to arrest them all as was his duty.

"That is, if you can!" one of the mob sneered.

Vexed by their refusal to listen to reason, Warren replied:

"There is no 'if' about it. I have sufficient force to take you all, if force is necessary; but we prefer a surrender without force."

The Bellevue War

Warren then showed Brown some letters from leading men of the county advising the gang leader and his men to surrender. He promised the mob that they would be protected from violence and would get a fair and impartial trial. This didn't suit them, however. They knew very well that with their entire number as prisoners and defendants, it would be impossible to win a case against the testimony of a large and militant body of witnesses.

Obviously playing for time to prepare for a vigorous defense of the hotel, Brown told Warren that if he would get four citizens whom he named to make the same pledge of protection, he and his men would surrender. This Warren agreed to do and was released from the hotel. After a time he found the men and together they started for the gang's fortress. When about 20 paces away, they were stopped by the command of Brown and five or six armed members of his mob, who appeared on the hotel porch. Warren, Brown stated, was to come on alone; he did not wish to see the others.

When the sheriff reached the hotel, Brown's men, who had been drinking heavily, immediately surrounded him. They told Warren that he was to be held prisoner, and that if the posse made any attempt to arrest them or to take them by force, he would be the first one shot. Warren replied that he could only submit to their ultimatum, but warned that if he was not released soon, Colonel Cox would surely attack the hotel.

About 15 minutes later, Brown's lookouts informed him that Colonel Cox was assembling the posse in the street. Ordering his men to their defense posts, Brown advised Warren to go and halt the posse, then come back. He knew, however, that Warren would not come back without the posse, and Warren knew that Brown knew this. Brown had always respected Warren and did not want to see him shot without a chance to defend himself. Warren immediately left the hotel.

Colonel Cox and Warren selected 40 armed volunteers. Then Cox addressed them, saying that they were up against desperate men making a last-ditch defense, that when the shooting started some of them would almost certainly be killed, and that anyone who wanted to do so might drop out. Not one man moved.

Anticipating wild gunfire, the women and children had been moved to a safe place. All the houses in town were deserted. Still under guard at his home, James Mitchell begged to be allowed to join the posse, arguing that if Brown and his men were victorious, they would surely come to his home and kill him in cold blood. Sheriff Warren would not give his consent to the freeing of Mitchell, but left a number of guns at the disposal of his guards to protect the house if it should be attacked.

At about 2:30 p.m. the posse advanced in double file toward the hotel. When they were only 30 paces away, the order to charge was given and the entire party rushed close to the front of the bandit fortress. Brown still held enough power over his men to keep them from firing until he gave the signal. The hotel door was open.

Seeing Brown standing in the center of the room with his rifle raised to his shoulder, Sheriff Warren called out:

"Surrender, Brown, and you shan't be hurt."

Brown instantly lowered his rifle, apparently intending to surrender, but the weapon was accidentally discharged. The ball passed through Colonel Cox's coat sleeve without injuring him.

Thinking this a signal from their leader, the mob opened fire and the battle began in earnest. Shots from the posse poured through the lower windows of the hotel, one of them killing Brown instantly.

The posse stormed through the hotel door, firing as they came. Outnumbered, the mob retreated up the stairs.

Seeing that any attempt to follow the bandits would result in unwarranted loss of life, Sheriff Warren ordered his men to burn the hotel. The posse piled brush, twigs, and leaves against the south wall, but when an attempt was made to fire it, a few members of the gang who lay in ambush in a nearby house opened fire on the torch-bearer.

Before the fire had a chance to take serious effect, a shout brought the posse to the back of the hotel, where the mob was attempting to escape by leaping from a low shed attached to the building. Trapped and frightened, 13 members of the mob gave up and were captured. Others escaped and were never seen again.

The posse quickly extinguished the fire and a check-up was made of casualties. Four possemen -- Henderson Palmer, Andrew Farley, John Brink, and J. Maxwell -- had been killed outright. William Vaughn was severely wounded and later died. Several others were wounded. Of the bandit mob, Brown, Burtis, and Aaron Day were killed, Tom Welch was badly hurt, and others had suffered slight injuries.

While the captives cowered and cringed from their guards, shouts of "Vengeance!" and "Hang them all!" were heard on every side from the angry settlers. Ropes appeared and rough hands adjusted them about the necks of a few of the mob, whose day of reckoning seemed to be at hand. However, at this stage of the proceedings many of the county's most

prominent men pleaded with the crowd not to let their excitement and anger lead them to commit an act for which they would be sorry.

The demoralized crowd paid no heed, but Sheriff Warren mounted a box and informed the citizens that Colonel Cox wanted to speak to them. Cox was a forceful speaker, and the crowd listened to what he had to say.

Cox appealed eloquently to these pioneers. He said that their first duty was to attend to the needs of the women and children whose husbands and fathers had been killed that day; that this was a higher duty than hanging the scoundrels whom they had in custody. After that he said, "Whatever a majority of the citizens may say shall be done. I pledge you my word that you shall not only have my sanction, but my help."

The citizens heeded Cox's proposal. Graves were dug and the dead were buried with ceremonies presided over by the Reverend Joseph Kirkpatrick. Jess Burke directed the preparation of a meal for the famished crowd, and within two hours all had been fed. Liquor barrels and casks were broken and the liquor poured on the ground to prevent excitable people from getting drunk and attempting to settle the issue ahead of time.

That night the citizens held a meeting to decide on the final disposition of the prisoners. Sheriff Warren asked to receive help in upholding the law and bringing the mob to trial. In this he was opposed by Anson Harrington and Thomas Cox, who argued that there was no jail, and that unnecessary delay would certainly bring down upon their heads a mob of Brown's confederates from the East, who no doubt would attempt the rescue of the prisoners and cause more bloodshed.

Their faces drawn from sleeplessness and fear, the prisoners were brought into the meeting place at 10 o'clock the next morning. There they were told of the citizens' decision by Thomas Cox. They had, he said, been asked to surrender and stand trial according to law, which they had refused to do. Their refusal had caused a terrible fight, which had resulted in the death of their leader and many others; therefore the citizens had relieved the sheriff of his duty, at the same time proposing to grant the outlaws a fair chance for their lives, and that the sentence which the people would impose would be carried out to the letter.

When Cox had finished speaking, Chichester asked permission to say a word for himself and his companions in crime. "Unanimous consent was given," Sheriff Warren later recalled, "and he commenced in a low and trembling voice, gaining confidence as he proceeded. He had the attention of everyone in the house; his appeal to spare their lives was one of the most fearful appeals I have ever heard."

The Bellevue War

After Chichester's speech, many of the citizens arose and spoke. Some of them advised letting the law take its course. Others argued that they should proceed according to plan. Anson Harrington declared that the culprits should be hanged, saying that if they were turned loose, someone would suffer for it before long. The gang, he argued, would take up operations elsewhere, and the blame for their future victims' suffering could be placed squarely on the heads of the jury of Bellevue citizens. Being fair-minded, however, Harrington proposed that the citizens decide by ballot whether the prisoners should be immediately hanged, or whipped and sent down the river never to return.

Harrington's proposition was put to a voice vote and carried. Colonel Thomas Cox, president of the meeting, called every citizen in the room, 80 of them besides himself, to rise and pledge himself to abide by the decision of the majority.

Then two men started around the room, one holding a box of white and colored beans, the other with the empty "ballot" box. Stopping in front of every one of the citizens' jury, 80 times the ballot-bearers intoned the instructions:

"White beans for hanging. Colored beans for whipping. White beans for hanging. Colored beans for whipping." Each juror took a bean from one box, deposited it in the other, and the two men moved on, followed by the eyes of everyone in the room, prisoners and citizens alike, trying intently to determine the color of each bean as it was selected. "White beans for hanging. Colored beans for whipping." Finally the chairman chose his bean and voted.

A tense silence prevailed as the beans were counted and found to correspond with the number of voters. Then the white beans were separated from the colored and totaled. Not a sound, save the heavy breathing of the prisoners, could be heard as the tellers handed the result to Colonel Cox. Holding the slip of paper in his hand, the chairman bade the prisoners, whose faces now showed a ghastly pallor, to rise and hear the verdict.

Before announcing the result, Colonel Cox brought all members of the jury to their feet to pledge again their determination to carry out the will of the majority. This was done, and all but the prisoners were seated.

Colonel Cox then announced that the result was very close; there was a majority of only three. -- for whipping. The prisoners, all of whom had expected to be hanged that day, sank to their seats with profound sighs of relief.

Judgment was then passed on each of the prisoners in

The Bellevue War

turn. The case against each man was weighed, and Colonel Cox pronounced sentences ranging from four to 30 lashes with a whip, according to the character and nature of the crimes with which the men were charged. After being whipped they were to be given three days' rations, placed in skiffs without oars, and sent down the river. If they were ever caught again in Jackson County they were to be hanged.

When all the sentences had been carried out, 12 of the mob were set adrift on the river. The thirteenth man, whose sentence was 25 lashes, had been so severely whipped that he required medical attention. He remained in the settlement until he was able to travel, then he, too, went down the river.

The thieves were never seen in Jackson County again, but about two weeks after the whipping a settler brought word from Seward Island to Sheriff Warren that William Fox desired to talk with him personally. Fearing a trick, the sheriff called together several armed citizens and went to the island, where the humble Fox, covered with filth and very evidently suffering from exposure, came out of a thicket to meet them. He apologized for coming back contrary to orders and begged the party to spare his life. Sheriff Warren assured him that he would not be harmed, and Fox then told him that during the day the Bellevue War had been fought he had given Mrs. Brown his pocketbook containing \$400 and had also left behind a good suit of clothes. He wanted the sheriff to get them for him. Sorry for the criminal's plight, Warren went back to Bellevue and not only carried out Fox's request but also brought along some provisions. Thanking Warren profusely, Fox departed and was never seen again by the citizens of Jackson County.

Sheriff Warren lived to regret this humane action, however. Five years later word reached Bellevue from Davenport that William Fox had been a member of the gang of river bandits who brutally murdered Colonel George Davenport on the night of July 4, 1845, after robbing him. Thus did the words of Anson Harrington become prophetic.

James Mitchell was tried on a charge of manslaughter on June 19, 1840. As everyone interested in the case had previously assumed, he was found not guilty.

CHAPTER 6

GROWTH AND THE LAND SALES

After the Bellevue War, which gave the criminals of many states a bad scare, the settlers were free once more to till their fields and raise their livestock without fear.

The site of Maquoketa and its vicinity drew the largest number of settlers in 1840. Two men named Sears and Doolittle came to Jackson County during that year from Covington, Kentucky. They purchased the claim and mill of Joseph Henry and later lost it through litigation. Staking a claim about one mile north of what later became the crossing of Main and Platt Streets, the Kentuckians platted a town to which they gave the name of Lowell. Another Kentucky immigrant drew a magnificent map of the proposed new town. With its broad squares and wide boulevards, the paper town resembled a Midwestern Philadelphia or New York City of that day. Its chief purpose was to attract Eastern capitalists, who were expected to invest in corner lots and business ventures.

Houses, including one of brick, were built on the site, and a brick flouring mill was erected on the Maquoketa River. Thomas Wright moved his Eagle Woolen Mills to the new town, and for a time Lowell prospered. But a few years later the shameless Maquoketa River cut a new channel above the mills, leaving them high and dry. From that moment Lowell slowly faded until it became a ghost town.

In 1840 a post office named Springfield was established on the site of Maquoketa, and John Goodenow was appointed first postmaster. A short time later the postal authorities moved the office back to Bridgeport, Thomas Cox's dream town, and from there to Springfield again. Finding that too many Springfields caused confusion, the post office name was five years later changed to Maquoketa.

A. B. Malcolm was Maquoketa's first doctor. He arrived in 1840. Before that time the settlers had looked for medical care to Thomas Wright, who had a limited knowledge of medicine.

During 1840 Wright and Zalmon Livermore established another paper town at a spot where Livermore had built a sawmill, but it suffered the same fate as did so many other towns of that day. It was never built. They had named it North Maquoketa.

During the summer of 1840 a census was taken in the county and the population found to number 1,452. Late in

Growth and the Land Sales

the fall, an election upheld the county commissioners on the township organization question. The first townships were Butler, Farmer's Creek, Perry, Tete des Morts, Davis, Bellevue, Harrison, Van Buren, and Union. Others were created during a 15-year period following 1840, ending with Iowa Township in 1855.

One day in 1840 Sheriff Warren stopped at the home of William Vosburg, west of Maquoketa. Taking some shreds and strings of buckskin, to which a few buttons were attached, from under his bed, Vosburg showed them to Warren and told him the following story of a battle between a man and a deer:

Taking his axe and dinner bucket, Vosburg had gone to the woods one day to cut rails and firewood but had neglected to take his rifle. He had just felled a tree, along toward mid-afternoon, when he heard his dogs baying. Next moment a large buck deer came plunging through the underbrush, headed straight for Mr. Vosburg's tree. The wood-chopper ducked around it and tried to hide in the branches.

But unfortunately the deer had the same idea, and soon came face to face with an animal that terrified him far less than had the dogs. The buck charged. Vosburg swung his axe. The blow missed and the axe flew out of his perspiring fingers. With a final desperate lunge, Mr. Vosburg gripped the buck's antlers with one hand, his jaw with the other.

Apparently the big deer thought better of his first idea of killing his human enemy, for now he started to run. Mr. Vosburg released his hold -- and the buck pivoted and again charged. This time the woodsman side-stepped and caught hold of the flying animal's horn and nose in such a way that he was able to throw the deer. But even at this disadvantage the animal was dangerous, for his knife-edged and flinty hoofs ripped Vosburg's clothing like the slashing blows of a banana knife.

Vosburg put up with this kind of thing just long enough to draw his hunting knife. Next moment he had cut the deer's throat. Sheriff Warren ate roasted venison cut from the big buck's loin for supper that night.

During the year 1841 Maquoketa held its first term of school and its first Fourth of July celebration. The settlers decided to have a flagpole for the latter occasion. At the farm of Calvin Teeple they cut a slender 70-foot pole, tied a pulley to the top, and ran their flag-hoisting rope through it, then raised the pole. To the exasperation of everyone present, the rope slipped out of the pulley. William Vosburg (the hunter) volunteered to shinny to the top and run the rope through the pulley again, but when he had made the difficult trip to the top, he couldn't get the frayed end

Growth and the Land Sales

of the rope into its place and was forced to come down. Disgusted, the settlers took the pole down and replaced the rope. When the pole had again been put into place, a large cotton flag was hoisted amid tremendous cheering. This is said to have been the first American flag to float over Jackson County from a flagpole.

Not until the same year was Bellevue incorporated, although a clause enabling it to incorporate had been included in the bill which created the county in 1837. Saint Joseph's parish of the Catholic Church was organized there in 1841.

Elsewhere in the county during 1841 a miller named Sprague settled on the site of Spragueville, the town which later grew and was named for him.

In that year the settlers in the northern part of Fairfield and southern part of Jackson Townships formed an independent company of territorial militia, with Leonard M. Hilyard as its captain and William Watkins as first lieutenant. There appears to be no record of the company's service. Five years later most of its 78 members seem to have joined the Jackson County company of infantry which served in the Mexican War. This caused the Brush Creek Rangers, as the group was known, to disband.

The assessment books for 1841 showed that James McCabe of Sabula was the heaviest taxpayer in the county. His personal property, including "horses, cattle, wagons, watches, and household furniture", was assessed on a valuation of \$760. Others listed were William Current, \$358; Shade Burleson, west of Maquoketa, \$346; John Goodenow, Maquoketa, \$256; Nathaniel Butterworth, Andrew, \$168; Calvin Teeple, neighbor of Burleson, \$185; William A. Warren, Bellevue, \$75; Dr. E. A. Wood, Sabula, \$65. Total assessed value of property in the county was \$49,420.

On April 12, 1841, Jesse Yount, Thomas Denson, and Eli Goddard were sworn in as commissioners to relocate the seat of Jackson County. The center of population had shifted to the west, and especially at Maquoketa the citizens clamored for a seat of justice closer to the geographical center of the county.

By April 15 the commission had made its report. The members had selected a site on which lay the claim of John Hendley, pioneer of 1837. They christened the place Andrew in honor of the military hero and ex-president for whom the county had been named -- Andrew Jackson. At an election held late in May to choose between Bellevue and Andrew as the county seat, the vote resulted in a majority of 97 for Andrew out of a total of 319 votes cast.

Growth and the Land Sales

The county purchased the land and caused it to be surveyed and a town to be platted. A number of lots were sold and a courthouse -- a 30 x 40 log structure, located a short distance north of the public square -- was built. A county jail of logs was also built, and was made as escape-proof as was possible at that time. There was no door on the ground floor; prisoners and the jailor alike entered the building through a door in the attic and descended on a ladder through a trap-door. When the prisoner was inside, the door was closed, fastened down, and the ladder removed.

Citizens from all over the county and from other counties and states rushed to get in on the ground floor development of Jackson County's new seat of justice. The most notable and prominent man to settle in the county arrived there early. He was Ansel Briggs, who owned the Davenport-Dubuque stage line and who often drove one of his stages himself. In partnership with Samuel S. Fenn, Briggs built and kept one of Andrew's first stores.

Born in Vermont February 3, 1806, Ansel Briggs went with his family to Cambridge, Ohio, in 1830, where young Briggs established several stage lines. Coming to Iowa territory in 1836, he opened stage routes and was awarded Government mail contracts. Finally settling at Andrew, he was elected Jackson County Representative to the Iowa Territorial Legislature in 1842 and afterward became the county's sheriff. When Iowa became a State, in 1846, the 40-year-old Democratic Briggs was elected its first governor after a bitterly contested campaign against Thomas McKnight, his Whig opponent. Briggs' majority was only 247 votes.

At the expiration of his term of office in 1850, Briggs retired from public life. He lived at Andrew until 1870, when he moved to Council Bluffs. He died at Omaha May 5, 1881. In 1909, through the efforts of J. W. Ellis of Maquoketa (then head of the Jackson County Historical Society), the Iowa Legislature appropriated \$1,000 from State funds to carry on the work started by the society. School children and others donated services, nickels, and dimes, and the remains of Iowa's first Governor and Jackson County's most prominent citizen were exhumed from the Omaha grave and returned to Andrew. There, on May 23, they were reinterred in the family burying lot. In September of the same year, 3,000 persons witnessed the unveiling of a monument in Ansel Briggs' memory at Andrew. Briggs' daughter, Mrs. Nannie Briggs Robertson, performed the unveiling.

During 1841, post offices were established at Andrew, Silsbe, and Tete des Morts, the latter in the little settlement which was later named Saint Donatus. Thomas Marshall was Andrew's first postmaster. Ithel Corbett in 1842 built the town's first hotel. That same year John Francis built

Growth and the Land Sales

the first frame house there and used it as a grocery. On July 5, 1842, Ansel Briggs and John Francis bought all the unsold lots at auction.

Andrew's first term of court, held in 1842, was a long one. There were many cases on the docket, and settlers came from all over the county to hear them. During this session, while waiting for court to open, Shade Burleson and William Vosburg noticed a large knothole in a nearby tree and decided to have some fun. After pouring a bit of honey into the hole, they gleefully watched a swarm of bees from the hives of Nathaniel Butterworth gather at the tree.

Sheriff Warren was called and inquired of Burleson what price he placed on his rights as discoverer of the bee-tree. Honey was a luxury, and lucky was the man who discovered it.

Burleson stated that his rights ought to be worth an order on Francis' grocery for two gallons of whiskey -- which then sold for about 14¢ a gallon wholesale. Warren, leader of a temperance group, was reluctant to give Burleson the order, but Burleson's arguments and the presence of the swarm of bees eventually overcame the temperance advocate's scruples.

The two "discoverers" planned to sell their rights to several people at the same price, but the story leaked out and Sheriff Warren, it is said, turned red in the face when he learned how easily he had been fooled.

All was not fun for the pioneers, however. The winter of 1842-43 was an unusually long and severe one. Snow fell early and the ground kept its covering of white until spring. On November 22 the Mississippi River froze over at Sabula and the ice held until the following April.

However, hunting was good. A dog or fox could travel on the crusted snow, but a deer would break through the crust and could be easily followed and captured.

During that winter, William Earle of Maquoketa killed and dressed 100 prairie chickens, intending to sell them at Dubuque. He and his son started out one day with a wooden sled, hauling the birds in a sack and taking a pillowcase filled with doughnuts to eat on the way. Two miles from Dubuque they stopped at a settler's cabin to warm their hands and feet. Their shins were becoming nicely toasted when suddenly the pioneer's wife looked out and saw about 20 hogs milling around the sled. The swine had smelled the chickens and doughnuts and had invited themselves to a feast. One old hog took the pillowcase between his teeth and ran towards the pen, doughnuts spilling out of a hole he had chewed in it. The others were licking their chops over the

prairie chickens, which offered no resistance. With the aid of the settler and his wife, Earle and son rescued the untouched fowl and went on. The hogs kept the doughnuts.

A short while before the Mississippi became ice-bound in 1842, Dr. J. G. Sugg crossed the river from Savannato Sabula on a scow ferry which carried, besides the doctor, ten other immigrants, a horseman, and two wagons. When shallow water was encountered, the ferryman used the oars as pushpoles. Unfortunately one of the oars stuck tightly in the mud and could not be recovered, and the scow drifted unmanageably down the river. In desperation the voyagers ripped up a strip of flooring and used it as another oar. They managed to effect a landing some distance below Sabula.

In the year 1843, Brandon Township was created. Congregationalists organized a society at Maquoketa, as did the Methodist Episcopalians at Andrew. A post office, Wickliffe, was established near the present town of Green Island.

John Goodenow and Alonzo Spaulding platted a portion of their claims but did not record the plat. The new town grew up to be Maquoketa. The two men would not sell the lots to speculators. Whenever an immigrant came along who would agree to build a house on one of their lots, Goodenow or Spaulding gave the new settler a deed to that lot. In just such an informal way Maquoketa was founded, and Goodenow long was called and is still known as the "Father of Maquoketa." He also built the first lime kiln in the vicinity.

During those early days, the lowlands of Sabula were covered with luxuriant prairie grass from five to eight feet tall. In some places it was ten feet by actual measurement, clear proof of the fertility of the region.

In 1843, about three years after the Bellevue War, William Bennett and Colonel William Johnson clashed over a site in the center of the county. Each desired to lay out a new location for the county seat, and both chose the same spot. Scheming to get rid of his competitor, Bennett gathered together a gang of his friends, went to Colonel Johnson's house, loaded his possessions on a wagon, took the Colonel to a nearby piece of timber, tied him to a tree, and gave him a severe whipping.

Johnson swore out warrants for the arrest of Bennett and his mob. It all happened during the wintertime, and in attempting to resist arrest, Bennett and his men were driven into the open, where a number of them were captured after being nearly frozen to death. Two or three were killed by gunfire. Friends of Bennett threatened Colonel Johnson, who immediately left the county and later was reported killed in Mahaska County. In this violent manner ended the first decade of Jackson County's history.

During the next two years, 1844 and 1845, immigration and births swelled the population to over 4,000. At Sabula in 1844 a combination school and Methodist Episcopal Church was built, and in the same year Joseph Skinner made the first settlement on the site of the later railroad town of Baldwin. In 1845 Ansel Briggs instituted three-a-week mail service on his Davenport-Dubuque stage line. During the year, the Prairie Springs post office was established, and the name of the Springfield post office was changed to Maquoketa.

The pioneers had long looked forward to 1845 -- the year of the land sales. Usually the government of a newly opened territory was purely nominal, and until a county became organized there was no sign of law enforcement. To protect their interests against the lawless element, the early settlers organized "claim clubs." Pioneers in every community of two or more settlers met and drafted resolutions to protect their claims against outsiders. The provisions of most Iowa claim clubs were the same, although differently worded.

One especially effective resolution, which turned aside many a would-be claim jumper or speculator, read as follows:

RESOLVED, That we will remove any person or persons who may enter the claim of any settler and settle upon it, peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must, even if their removal should lead to bloodshed, being compelled to do so for our own common safety, that we may not be driven by ruthless speculators from our firesides and homes.

Many interlopers lost their lives by disregarding such warnings, and many more saw the light and moved on. At least one death in Jackson County can be ascribed to this cause.

With the money they had carefully hoarded, the pioneers made the trip to the land office at Dubuque, where their land was to be sold by the Government. The usual custom at these sales was for one man to represent a community or an entire township. With the township survey book in his hand, the representative would bid for each section offered in the name of its claimant at the required minimum price of \$1.25 per acre. Competitive bidding was discouraged, often by force. When his particular piece of land had been sold in his name and the price recorded, each settler paid his money, received his title, and departed, happy in the knowledge that the land he had worked and fought so hard for was now truly his own.

At the sales in 1845 a doctor named Rhodes was the highest bidder on a 40-acre tract of fine timberland located a short distance northwest of Maquoketa. This was part of

Absalom Montgomery's claim. Going to Rhodes' home, members of the local claim club offered Rhodes the return of the money he had paid for the tract and the expenses of his trip to the land office if he would relinquish his title to the land.

Rhodes refused the offer and was promptly warned by Montgomery that any person trying to remove timber from that particular acreage would do so at the risk of his life. The enraged settler quoted to Rhodes that portion of the claim club's laws regarding the removal of an interloper, "peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must, even if their removal should lead to bloodshed."

A few days later, Rhodes' son-in-law, a young fellow named Brown, went into the woods to cut rails and firewood. He had witnessed the meeting between his father-in-law and Montgomery, and had called the latter a coward who would not dare to strike. Brown hadn't been there long when Montgomery appeared, armed with a rifle, and ordered him to get off the property.

A heated argument ensued. Before it was over, the young fellow slumped to the floor of his wagon with a rifle ball in his lungs. His team started for home and was halted by the wife of William Earle of Maquoketa. Brown, still alive, told her his story and accused Montgomery of the shooting. He died a few minutes later.

Maquoketa settlers searched for Montgomery and found him at the home of Shade Burleson. A Jackson County jury convicted him of murder, but a new trial was secured in Delaware County, where Montgomery was acquitted.

CHAPTER 7

THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL

After the Government land sales had begun in 1845, immigrants rushed to Jackson County. The late comers were people of peaceful pursuits who shunned frontier pioneering; substantial, dependable citizens who preferred to wait until Government title to the land was available and the Indians had entirely abandoned the territory.

The census of 1844 showed around 2,000 inhabitants in Jackson County, and in 1846 this figure had increased by nearly 140 per cent, to 4,767. During the same year, the post office of Cobb (later Mill Rock) was established, and the town of Zwingle was founded.

In 1847 a post office named Amoy was listed as being established in Jackson County, but maps of that period do not show it. The Garry Owen post office was established in the same year, and a school census showed that 911 children in the county attended school.

In this year also, the Andrew Western Democrat made its first appearance. It was set up by Andrew Keesecker, a former printer for the Dubuque Visitor, and edited by M. H. Clark. Later owners included Ansel Briggs and J. B. Dorr, who moved the equipment and paper to Bellevue in 1852.

Andrew Methodists erected a church building in 1848. Reverend Dennis, whose first name is not available, was its first pastor and laid the cornerstone. Congregationalists of Sabula built a church at the same time. It was finished and dedicated on October 8.

On June 4, 1847, Peter Mullen received a contract from the county commissioners to build a stone jail at Andrew on the northeast corner of the public square. The bid was \$1,450, payable in county bonds at six per cent. Mullen completed the building in 1848, but scarcely had the new county structure been completed when an election was held to determine the will of the people on the question of relocation of the county seat. The citizens' votes sent the county government back to Bellevue, where records show the county commissioners were doing business in October 1848. The other county officers and offices remained at Andrew until the end of the year, when they were forced to move. The courthouse had been rented. Bellevue citizens furnished suitable county offices, which were occupied on January 2, 1849.

An event of the year 1848 which was to play a big part in the lives of Jackson County men, women, and children was

The California Trail

the discovery of gold in California on February 2. The news was not generally known until late in the fall, when it was too late to start the dangerous overland journey.

During the winter of 1848-49, while "California meetings" were being held in almost every community to determine the number of citizens wishing to go, the editors of the Andrew Western Democrat and the State's 19 other newspapers of that day filled their columns with reams of material designed to halt the flow of westward emigration. All of them scoffed at the reports of Eastern papers, which carried lurid headlines and glowing accounts of the precious metal's abundance. And then, practically wiping out their efforts, came reassurance in the form of a message to Congress from President James K. Polk, confirming accounts of the "abundance of gold in that territory...as would scarce command belief, were they not corroborated by the authentic report of officers in the public service..."

When that message had been delivered, on December 5, 1848, preparations for the California trip increased. The editors then entered the fight on another tack, calling attention to the "surface gold-mining" on Iowa farms. Comparing the color of Iowa's grain to California's gold, and noting that wealth could be taken from Iowa's soil in proportion to the amount of labor expended, one editor commented:

"This way, then, amateur miners, and do not suffer the poetry of your honorable calling to be destroyed by town popinjays in hairy faces and high heeled boots, without the ability to pay for land enough to plant themselves in, though they curl their pretty lips and call you F-A-R-M-E-R."

Even this form of pleading was in vain. In the spring of 1849, when the grass was high enough to feed stock along the way, wagon trains began to roll westward. Months later some of them reached the gold-mining country. A high toll of Iowans and others was taken by blazing heat and bitter cold, rain, snow, mud, dust, Indians, highwaymen, rivers, mountains, sickness, hunger, and pestilence. Wagons broke down from overloading, necessitating the leaving behind of valuable equipment and provisions. Close to their goal, many of the outfits ran entirely out of provisions, and their livestock perished. Often their only food was the oxen which fell by the wayside from sheer hunger or thirst or both. It was forbidden to kill living animals as long as they were able to work.

"Many times," wrote Mary E. Neal to her parents in Jackson County, "I did wish for the victuals you feed your dogs." DeWitt Day of Jackson County's Marshall company wrote of a horrible trip across the great western deserts,

where "cattle dropped dead in the yoke, from 10 to 40 head a day" from driving several days in succession without grass or water. A detachment from this company took a shortcut to the settlements to secure provisions, "but found the distance greater than they expected. They got out of provisions, killed their dog and ate him; their horse gave out; they killed him and jerked his meat, and made out to get through. Those who remained behind had plenty of dead oxen to eat, we got along pretty well..."

Jackson County sent about 100 persons along the California trail, many of whom were women and children. Little is now known about the organization of companies in the county, but letters from the gold-seekers indicate that companies had been sent from Andrew and Maquoketa, and possibly from Bellevue. Apparently one band joined Iowa City's Sacramento Company at its rendezvous in Council Bluffs. Another seems to have made connections with the Spartan Band, which had Sioux City as a "jumping-off" place, and one officer of this outfit was Reverend G. W. Pope of Sabula.

The Marshall company, from Andrew, contained many families who intended to remain in California and stake out claims. DeWitt Day was a member of this company. He wrote further concerning it:

"Hilliard and John Cox got along very well; John Nichols, (Joseph) Mallard and Thomas Cox got through with one yoke of oxen and a wagon, but threw away all each had, everything but what they had on their backs. Thomas Cox got both his horses through; they could hardly stand."

Though the list is undoubtedly greater, the deaths of at least two Jackson County gold rushers were recorded. Mrs. F. A. Chenoweth of Maquoketa died of cholera at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and a Mr. Fisk, also of Maquoketa, perished on the plains in midsummer of 1849.

The rewards of the goldseekers' hardships and suffering were generally negligible. Most fortunate of the Jackson County miners was Rev. G. W. Pope with about \$75,000. A Mr. E. Doe dug three or four thousand dollars in gold out of the California earth or panned it along its streams. John Hazen made \$1,000 within a few weeks, but it cost him half of it to live. Noah Reeder returned with some money and a few nuggets, one of which weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.

Others brought back varying small amounts, but, gold or no gold, Joseph Mallard was a happy man. His outfit arrived at a California ranch on New Year's Day, 1850, after an exhausting trip, and there, five days later, his wife presented him with a baby daughter.

While the gold rushers were leaving in 1849, John Goodenow built the Goodenow House, a two-and-a-half-story, 64 by 32 brick structure that was the talk of Maquoketa and of settlers for miles around. At the post office, the postmaster chuckled over the way the town's name was misspelled by people writing to the place. Letters addressed to the Maquoketa office were at various times spelled: Makokoty, Macoqueta, Makokueta, Macoyta, Macoeketa, Makoketa, Macotoket, McKokady, Macoty, Makozuta, Maquoteka, Marrkata, Makogute; letters have been received in more recent years carrying the fanciful labels of Haceioketa, Moquoquitois, and Mesquabynonques. Altogether, the postmaster reported in the Sentinel-Excelsior in November 1940, the name Maquoketa has been spelled more than 660 different ways.

In 1850 John Goodenow built and donated a church to the Methodists at Maquoketa. During the year daily mail service was instituted on Ansel Briggs' Davenport-Dubuque stage route, and on October 1 Maquoketa was platted by a surveyor named Scarborough. The population of the county then was 7,210.

The next year, in 1851, the village of Fulton was laid out, and six post offices were established: Copper Creek, Cottonville, Hickory Grove, Iron Hill, New Castle, and Smith's Ferry. Another was reestablished at Bridgeport. These lasted variously from a period of a few months to 59 years. The last one of the six to be discontinued was the one at Iron Hill, in 1910.

A Congregational church was built at Bellevue in 1851, and in the same year fraternal societies sprang up. The Masons organized at Maquoketa; the Oddfellows at Maquoketa and Sabula. A Masonic lodge was organized at Sabula in 1852.

Still standing in 1942 a mile north of Andrew is the old stone house built by Nathaniel Butterworth in 1852 from Niagara limestone quarried on his own farm. Near the house is a much older barn, built of native oak and pins of native timber, which Butterworth constructed in 1838.

Butterworth walked to Jackson County from New York in 1837 and returned in 1838 to bring his family back to their new home -- a log cabin which stood on the site of the present stone house. In the days of Ansel Briggs' stage route the Dubuque-Davenport stages always stopped at the stone house. Briggs, who often drove the stage himself, was a great friend of Butterworth's, and after serving two terms as the first Governor of the State of Iowa, he lived for some time at the Butterworth home. Many important travelers of that day stayed at the house overnight. Some people say that General U. S. Grant spent several nights as a guest there.

The California Trail

The house is large and has been the subject of several paintings and many stories. It was for a long time a social center of the Andrew community, and settlers came long distances to enjoy the dances in the ballroom on the second floor. Two stone fireplaces kept the ballroom warm in winter, and there is a fireplace in each of the two large living rooms downstairs. Of New England Colonial style and with a long, plain front, the house is still in good condition, and is still occupied.

The Van Buren post office was created in 1852. During the year, James Miles settled on the site of the railroad town which later was to bear his name, though E. S. Hathaway was the first settler in the vicinity, having arrived in 1850.

During the two-year period from 1852 to 1854, Jackson County enjoyed another rush for settlement, which increased its population about 50 per cent -- from 8,231 in 1852 to 12,166 in 1854. At Maquoketa, churches were built by the Congregationalists and Baptists in 1853. At Bellevue in the same year, I. S. Sublett built the Sublett House, and fire destroyed the Roman Catholic Church which had been a present to the society from Bishop Mathias Loras of Dubuque in 1848. A large part of Bellevue's buildings at that time were built of stone or brick, and the fire did not get far, destroying only the church and J. B. Bovard's carpenter shop at a total loss of about \$2,800. The Catholics began construction of another church, which they completed in 1854 at a cost of \$2,500.

In 1853, post offices were established at Farmer's Creek, Higginsport, Otter Creek, Spruce Mills, and Sterling; in 1854 at Rolley; in 1855 at Ozark, Summer Hill, and Waterford. By 1856 Jackson County post offices were more numerous than in any other county in the State, 33 in all. Its nearest competitors in this respect were Clayton County with 28, and Van Buren County with 26.

Maquoketa was incorporated as a town in February 1853 and John Goodenow became the first mayor in March 15. The first ordinance levied a 5-mill property tax. The official seal of the new corporation was the eagle side of the 1850 half-dollar. To obtain the seal, the coin was placed beneath the paper, eagle side up. Then the spot was rubbed until the imprint of the coin showed clearly on the paper.

In 1854 the Great Iowa Central Airline Railway Company proposed to build a line from Sabula to the Missouri River to connect with their road then being built in Illinois. Forty miles of the road were to be built within Jackson County, and its citizens were asked to bond themselves in the sum of \$200,000 at eight per cent interest. This on June 5, 1854, they refused to do. The proposition was defeated

largely through the action of northern Jackson County citizens, who could see no benefit to themselves in a railroad so far to the south.

At one time during the 1850's, the Maquoketa settlers' hair grew to unprecedented lengths because there was no barber in town. The Maquoketa Sentinel advertised the town's crying need for a barber, and two weeks later a plodding, stolid German showed up, nailed a piece of plank to the back of a chair for a head rest, and sat down to await the anticipated trade of boom proportions. Two weeks later a note on the washstand explained his departure:

"I hope you will wonder that I left in such a hurry. I was compelt to do so. If I can't earn my poard here, I tink it is high time to leave this place. I have to go to a place where Men git Shavet, not where the Shave themselves like the do here, where the haven't a dime to spair, gitin' hair cut ant shavet and never pay for it.

"A shentleman wouldnt do so, only some d--n Rascle wat will cut up sush tric. Shame for Maquokete to sti(n)t a poor Barber. Tat is the reasons I left this misprable hole, where I cant earn my poard. A si(gh)t of fools is in towns."

In 1854 Thomas Wright moved his Eagle Woolen Mills and workers -- long hair and all -- from Lowell to Maquoketa and began operations on a limited scale for the local trade. The town of Mill Rock was platted during the same year.

An important visitor in 1854 was James W. Grimes, the Whig candidate for Governor, who came in the autumn and spoke at Bellevue and Maquoketa. While in Bellevue, he learned that Shade Burleson, an old wheelhorse of the Whig party, was in town on business. Grimes went to see him and was astonished to find that Burleson opposed his candidacy on the grounds that he (Grimes) was an avowed abolitionist. Burleson flatly refused to attend the meeting where Grimes was scheduled to speak at Bellevue.

When Burleson stopped at Maquoketa the next day for a bite to eat, however, he saw a large crowd enter the church where Grimes' second speech was scheduled. Suddenly he decided to hear the abolitionist.

Candidate Grimes was a first class orator, or so it seems; at least he won the race for Governor in 1854. During his speech at Maquoketa, in which he recounted the evils and miseries which had befallen the Southern Negroes, at least half of his audience were in tears. In the face of such a demonstration, Burleson's resistance to the principles of abolitionism gave way. Rushing to the platform after Grimes had finished, Burleson shook his hand warmly and remarked:

The California Trail

"By thunder, Grimes, if that's abolitionism, I've been one all the time, and I'm such a fool that I did not know it."

With the heavy influx of settlement during these years, the work of enlarging old towns and platting new ones went on with fervor. Monmouth was platted June 15, 1855. New business ventures multiplied rapidly. Church societies were organized and churches built.

Temperance organizations tried with some small success to vanquish the demon rum. In 1856, women temperance crusaders held a meeting to devise a plan for getting rid of the grog-shop operated by John Scurlock in Farmer's Creek Township. From this den of iniquity their sons, husbands, and fathers returned home in a sorry state of health and with sour dispositions.

Hearing of the threat to his profitable business, Scurlock swore he would knock down and drag out the first woman or anybody else who attempted to remove or demolish a jug or barrel of his "elixir." Most of the women were frightened by Scurlock's threats, but Amanda Breeden and three other ladies went undaunted to the rum den, smashed every jug, cask, and barrel in the place, and withdrew in complete safety.

Two newspapers appeared for the first time in Jackson County during 1856. The Maquoketa Weekly Excelsior's first issue went on sale in March. Whig in politics, it was sponsored by State Printer Moriarty to offset the influence of the well-established Democratic Maquoketa Sentinel. Under the astute management of A. G. Henderson, the Excelsior boasted a paid circulation of 1,296 by August 1 of the same year. It was leased to A. W. Drips of Maquoketa in 1858 and sold in 1859 to Willard S. Eddy. It passed through several hands and was finally merged, in 1930, with the Jackson Sentinel. It then became the Jackson Sentinel & Maquoketa Excelsior, or Sentinel-Excelsior.

The other paper established in 1856 was the Sabula Tribune, owned and edited by C. N. Beecher. It was short lived. The depression of 1857 ended its publication.

In 1856, about a year after Monmouth was platted, a rival town named Coloma was laid out on adjacent acreage, but was soon absorbed and became the southwestern portion of Monmouth. .

In 1856 the still active Iowa Central Airline offered to build a road from Bellevue north to the county line, for which the county's citizens were asked to subscribe \$50,000. Another road from Bellevue west to the county line via Ful-

ton was proposed, with a branch to Maquoketa; subscription requested, \$170,000. Added to this, the former proposition for a road along the southern part of the county was brought forward.

To this triple-headed proposition, designed to give each part of the county a railroad, the voters on November 4, 1856, again said no. But in the meantime the company had received a grant of every alternate section of land for a distance of six miles on each side of the proposed line in unoccupied territory. Wherever the land was settled, the company received all unclaimed land for 15 miles on each side. Evidently they decided to give Jackson County a railroad whether its people would subscribe for it or not. They had been warmly welcomed in Lyons (later joined to Clinton) and had received subscriptions from the voters of Clinton County. Thirty-five miles of roadbed were built between Lyons and Maquoketa in 1856, but mismanagement of the project caused suspension of the work. With the depression of 1857 and then the hardships of the Civil War, the Great Iowa Central Airline became only a frustrated hope.

Despite the absence of a railroad, the county continued to boom, and with the heavy rush of immigrants there came also a few criminals. The Bellevue War was now but a memory. The rough terrain made it easy for this new criminal element to commit crimes and elude the law. The courts, moreover, were not incorruptible, and justice could often be sidetracked.

The settlers were shocked into action March 27, 1857, however, by the brutal murder of John Engles, a farmer living near Iron Hill in Farmer's Creek Township. Three weeks later a secretly organized band of 100 men caught and hanged Alexander Gifford, Engles' murderer. Known first as the Iron Hill Vigilantes and later as the Regulators, the vigilance committee drew up resolutions which asserted their authority to enforce the law in Jackson County. They resolved that, if the county officers did not show more fight against criminals, the "wrong-honored officers, whose names we do not choose to mention here, shall never have another office at the gift of the people of this county, but we will let them go a duck-hunting." Warning the law against any attempted trial of the mob for the hanging of Gifford, who they claimed had been hired to murder Engles, the committee resolved to "avenge the unjust death of any one of this committee, at the cost of life and property."

In 1858, after quick justice had been meted out to a few other criminals, the courts and law-enforcing agents became more stern. The Regulators numbered about 400, and nobody wanted another Bellevue War.

Several other notable events occurred in the county during 1857. Maquoketa was incorporated as a city in January and a new charter was adopted May 11. Centerville and Fulton both sought to obtain the county seat, Centerville losing the April election to Maquoketa; Fulton's proposition was turned down the next year. The county's first town band was formed at Sabula, to be followed in 1858 by the Bellevue cornet band.

Mt. Algor post office was created in 1857, and in the spring, when news came of the Indian massacre at Lake Okoboji (the Spirit Lake Massacre), an independent military company was raised at La Motte, though they seem not to have been used in the search for the treacherous Inkpaduta, Sioux chief who led the raid.

The year 1859 saw the inauguration of steam ferry service at Sabula -- previously the ferry had been operated by horsepower. Baldwin was platted in the same year. The county's first bank was opened at Bellevue, and the county fair was first held at Andrew.

In the spring of the same year, heavy rains filled the streams and ravines with specimens of lead mineral in the vicinity of Canton and along Black Hawk Creek. Prospectors found a few particles of gold while panning. Levi Wagoner sent a sample of the gold to his brother in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and soon the Pittsburgh papers went wild over the supposedly immense gold and lead deposits in Jackson County, Iowa. But before a general rush could get under way, some of the county's old "Forty-niners" sized up the situation and decided that the presence of neither kind of metal would pay for its prospecting. Then the excitement died down.

In 1860 two societies of the Church of Latter-Day Saints were organized in the county, one at Butternut Grove a few miles from Maquoketa and the other at Canton. At Bellevue the Presbyterians built what probably was the first stone church in the county, while at the same time a man named Raemhaldtef built a \$6,000 brick and frame brewery on State Street, about a half mile from the river. Three-a-week mail service was inaugurated between Bellevue and Maquoketa, and the decennial census showed a population of 18,493.

Perley G. and Josiah Stiles in 1860 built and operated the Iowa Packing Company in Sabula, and soon the infant industry took fourth rank among similar institutions in the State, outranked only by the plants at Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Dubuque. Their products soon were shipped to many distant points by rail and steamboat. The plant operated for 40 years, then was closed down.

The California Trail

Certain steamboats which had contracts with the packing company always stopped at Sabula, but the others in the upper Mississippi trade usually would not stop unless they were hailed. On one occasion a mischievous fellow named McBride saw a steamer coming upriver and hailed it in a spirit of deviltry. Obediently the captain turned the craft in and landed, when McBride asked him if he had any ladies on board. The miscreant said he had a yoke of oxen and would like to make a trade. It is said that the captain was still cursing McBride when he docked his boat at Bellevue.

CHAPTER 8

HECTIC DAYS

In the decade of the 1860's, immigration to Jackson County slowed down materially. The census of 1860 showed a population of 18,493 persons; in 1869 the figure was 20,579, an increase of only 2,186. Soon after the coming of the railroads in 1870, the census showed an increase of 2,040 over the 1869 figure, or almost as much in one year as in the previous nine.

Sidney D. Tubbs built a four-story stone flour mill close to Maquoketa on the North Fork in 1861 and operated it successfully for 35 years. Then the capricious river changed its course, after a freshet, and left the mill without power. In 1937 the mill was repaired and remodeled to house the Rockdale Cheese Factory.

When war came in 1861, Jackson County was quick to answer President Lincoln's call for volunteers. All told, the county sent 1,288 men to the conflict. Many of them did not return.

First to go was Company I of the Fifth Iowa Infantry, which was mustered in at Burlington July 17, 1861.

Company A of the Ninth Iowa Infantry also was composed of Jackson County men. The regiment was mustered in at Dubuque in September 1861. Its first tough battle was that of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in March 1862. Several Jackson County men were killed or wounded in this battle. Captain A. W. Drips of Maquoketa was killed in this engagement. The regiment was also engaged at Vicksburg, Arkansas Post, and at Jackson, Mississippi. In 1863 they skirmished in Tennessee and Alabama. In 1864, after a furlough, the regiment fought at Resaca, Dallas, New Hope, Big Shanty, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochie River, Decatur, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy, accompanying Sherman in his march to the sea. The last battle of the Ninth Iowa was fought at Bentonville, Georgia.

The Twenty-sixth and Thirty-first Iowa Infantry regiments, mustered in at Clinton and Davenport, respectively, in the autumn of 1862, were sent south to join the army of which the Ninth Iowa was a part. Company B and most of Company A of the Twenty-sixth, and Companies F, I, and K of the Thirty-first Iowa were composed of Jackson County men.

Jackson County furnished Companies A and I of the Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry, which was organized at Muscatine in 1862 and campaigned in Louisiana and Mississippi. In 1864

the regiment embarked on a steamer and was sent to Virginia, where it engaged in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek.

Squads of the county's soldiers served with the Twelfth Iowa Infantry, which was organized at Dubuque, and fought for the first time at Fort Donelson during February 1862. They also took part in the famous battles of Shiloh, Jackson, and Vicksburg, and later were engaged at Tupelo, White River, Nashville, and Spanish Fort.

Companies L and M of the Second Iowa Cavalry were made up of Jackson County men. The regiment was mustered in at Davenport on September 1, 1861, and fought its first battle at New Madrid. Other engagements included Hamburg Landing, Tennessee; Monterey, Farmington, and Booneville, Mississippi; Rienzi, Iuka, Corinth, Lamar, Holly Springs, Lumpkin's Mills, Wyatt, Oxford, Water Valley, and Coffeeville. In 1863 the regiment reconnoitered in the deep South, taking part in battles or skirmishes at Birmingham, Ellison, Jackson, Grenada, and Salem, Mississippi. Later they fought at Moscow, La Fayette, Collierville, and Nashville, Tennessee.

Company A of the Ninth Iowa had previously been organized as the Jackson County National Guards. Before their departure to the war zone a meeting was held in August 1861 at the Maquoketa Congregational church to discuss ways and means to provide for their comfort on the battlefield and to take care of their families while they were away. At this meeting, the citizens of Maquoketa presented Captain Drips with a beautifully engraved sword. He led a charge at the battle of Pea Ridge with that sword and died with it in his hand.

Drips' first lieutenant, Florilla McKelsey of Maquoketa, was wounded in this engagement and subsequently was promoted to the rank of captain to take the place of the heroic commander. McKelsey also received the present of a sword from Maquoketans. Carrying this sword, he engaged in the siege of Vicksburg. During the siege he was wounded fatally and died May 26, 1863.

An interesting story growing out of Jackson County's part in the Civil War was that of the military hero, E. Washburn, alias Major E. S. Weston. Washburn and the two Farmington boys had at one time been indicted for counterfeiting gold coin in a hideout near Canton. This was during the early years of Jackson County's history, while Bellevue was still the county seat. The three were tried, convicted, and each sentenced to one year in the penitentiary.

To enable Washburn to appeal to a higher court, eight men who were convinced of his innocence freed him from jail

Hectic Days

on a \$500 bond. Washburn then took his family and went to live at Bellevue. He had to wait until spring for the new trial, which was to be held at Davenport.

When spring came, Washburn boarded a steamboat for Davenport to attend court, or so the authorities thought, but instead of doing so, he disappeared. Investigation of the surety showed that there were only two responsible signers: Matthew Diamond, of Monmouth Township, and a man named Collins. The county made no attempt to collect the bond money, preferring to give the signers time to find Washburn.

But it took the Civil War to find the outlaw. Nothing was heard of his movements until after the battle of Pea Ridge. Then Collins received word from one of the Farrington boys, who had been sentenced with Washburn, that the latter had become a major in the United States Army under the alias of E. S. Weston and was at that time commanding officer of the Twenty-fourth Missouri Cavalry.

Collins secured a requisition from Governor Kirkwood of Iowa, issued upon Provisional Governor Phelps of Arkansas, for the return of Washburn to stand trial on the counterfeiting charge. After reading the requisition, Governor Phelps went with Collins to Helena, Arkansas, to confer with General Curtis, commandant of the Union forces at Pea Ridge.

Curtis was astonished when he heard the charge against Washburn; he said that he would rather part with any other officer in his command. The battle of Pea Ridge, he intimated, might easily have been won by the Confederate forces had it not been for the strategy and the gallant conduct of Washburn and his regiment. Washburn had served his country in the Mexican War, and Curtis regarded him as a highly disciplined and daring military leader and strategist.

An orderly was sent to summon Washburn, and while Collins waited outside in the Governor's carriage, Phelps and Curtis conferred on ways and means to keep the former money-manufacturer in the army. Later Curtis and other army officers held several conferences with Phelps, while Collins stayed for a few days with the Ninth Iowa Infantry, visiting with the boys from Andrew and Bellevue.

Arrangements were made to reimburse Collins for his expenses in making the trip, and he was sent back to Iowa with a petition to Governor Kirkwood to pardon Washburn, which was done without a moment's hesitancy after the executive had heard Collins' story.

Before joining the army, Washburn told Collins, he had successfully practiced medicine in a southern Missouri town. He had never communicated with his family at Bellevue, who went to join him when the news of his pardon became known.

Hectic Days

When next the Iowa Legislature met, a bill was passed relieving Collins, Diamond, and the others of all liability on the \$500 bond.

While the boys were away on the battlefields or in hospitals or prisons, their mothers, sisters, and friends were busy on their behalf. Aid societies were organized; money and supplies were contributed not only for the fighting men but for those at home who were left without support. "Many a needle contributed its mite, and many a pen its words of comfort, to render camp life more pleasant and the army less a barbarism."

When the Jackson County boys returned home in 1865, a gigantic festival, staged to welcome them at a grove near Maquoketa, attracted 6,000 visitors. Reverend Young of the Maquoketa Methodist Episcopal Church offered the invocation, then welcomed the soldiers home with a short address. Col. J. J. Woods replied on behalf of the soldiers. A handsome sword was presented to Lieutenant W. F. McCarron of Maquoketa.

Long tables were spread to take care of the crowd. Most prominent feature of the feast were the cake decorations, which bore such legends as:

"Honor the Fallen Brave"; "Protection to Soldiers' Families"; "Welcome Home"; "Abraham Lincoln & His Cabinet Forever"; "Welcome Brave Boys."

In 1862 a German Lutheran minister, the Reverend J. M. Schueller, opened the doors of his home in Tete des Morts Township to seven children who had been orphaned or left destitute by the Civil War. During the next two years the list of orphans grew, and in 1864 Schueller appealed to his friends for help in his undertaking. On the suggestion that an institution be built to house and provide for the unfortunate children, Schueller and others formed a corporation May 26, 1864, and the minister canvassed the county to secure funds. Soon the association was able to buy 180 acres of land a short distance east of Andrew, where they constructed the \$7,500 Asylum for Orphans and Destitute Children. The main building, a three-story stone structure, could accommodate 75 children. Later a frame building was erected on an adjoining lot. Under the direction of the Lutheran Synod of Iowa, it was used as a seminary. German, English, music, and theology were taught there.

Inmates of the asylum could be either orphaned or destitute children; color, creed, or former conditions were no bar to the admittance of any child. Most of the children were from Jackson County, but some were admitted from other counties, and even a few from Illinois.

Hectic Days

There was work to do, and there were rules to follow. When a boy became 14 years of age, he was allowed to designate the kind of work he wanted to do, then was bound out as an apprentice under an agreement between the asylum manager and the boy's prospective master. One-third of his earnings helped support the orphanage and the other two-thirds bought his clothing and furnished him with spending money. If he did not use all of his share of the money, the remainder was kept by the master until the boy became of age and was then given to him.

The girls were instructed in domestic science and were allowed to earn money by knitting socks and by making other garments. Desirable homes were sought for both boys and girls. If a child deserted his home or master, he was brought back, if possible, the first and second times. If he ran away a third time, he was not allowed to return.

In 1861, before the Civil War was under way in earnest, the citizens of Andrew circulated a petition to return the county seat to that place. As an inducement they offered to furnish a courthouse free of charge to the county for a period of five years, and this offer was instrumental in Andrew's success in the election. A courthouse which cost \$6,000 was built; it was sold to the board of supervisors in 1866 for \$2,000, after the five-year free term was ended.

In 1868 Bellevue attempted to regain the county seat, even building a new courthouse as bait, but failed.

Though dates are lacking, several newspapers were established in the county during these years. The Jackson County Press at Bellevue, a direct offshoot of the Western Democrat, stopped publication, but several other papers sponsored the cause of freedom from that river town. Between the period of the Civil War and 1880, papers published at Bellevue were the Bellevue Banner, Argus, and Journal, the Iowa Republic, Jackson County Leader, and the Bellevue Leader, which is a live paper in 1942, under the editorship of Mrs. W. F. Schirmer.

The Gazette Company was formed at Sabula and began publication of the Sabula Gazette in 1862. Republican in politics, the name of the paper at one time was changed to the Eastern Iowan, than back to Gazette. In 1942 its editor is Wade Guenther.

Another early newspaper still running in 1942 was the old Jackson Sentinel, later merged with the old Maquoketa Weekly Excelsior. In 1864 the Maquoketa Sentinel was bought by G. W. Hunt and the equipment was moved to Illinois, after it had lain unused since 1862. At that time the head printer joined the army, leaving part of an issue set up. William

Hectic Days

C. Swigart, who with his brother had first established the Sentinel, bought new equipment in 1868, revived the paper in April of that year, and the following October changed its name to the Jackson Sentinel. As such it remained until its merger on November 1, 1930, with the Excelsior. The new paper, a semi-weekly, was called the Jackson Sentinel & Maquoketa Excelsior. In 1942 the editor is Carlyle Brown.

The Preston Times, under the editorship of Edwin B. Black, is another prominent county newspaper in 1942.

The town of Andrew was incorporated in 1863, and J. H. Smith was elected its first mayor. At that time the council had little to do besides enact a few ordinances. In the winter of 1864-65 there were a number of smallpox cases in the vicinity, and the council threatened exposed persons with a fine of \$75 and 30 days in jail if they appeared in public at Andrew. Four years later the disease hit the town itself and a few of the streets were fenced to prevent its spread. On neither occasion did the disease approach the proportions of an epidemic.

In 1865 the old county jail was condemned, and specifications were prepared for a new jail to cost about \$8,000. Citizens, however, voted down the proposition. In 1869 they were asked to approve an appropriation of \$15,000 for the same purpose but again said no. Finally, in 1870, the board of supervisors took advantage of a law that gave them the right to expend not more than \$5,000 for a new county jail, and a contract was let to Strasser & Schlecht, who in 1871 completed the stone structure on the Andrew public square. The old jail was later remodeled and converted into a dwelling.

Navigation of the Maquoketa River had begun in the early 1860's when the firm of Williams and Perham engaged Wilson Barnes to go to Pittsburgh and bring back their newly built steamboat, the Maquoketa City. Barnes brought her all the way from Pittsburgh, down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Maquoketa Rivers to "within walking distance" of Maquoketa. Here the forward progress of the Maquoketa City was stopped. Either the boat was too big for the river, "or the rocks, logs, and sand bars were too big for the boat", and the town's rivergoing namesake never got to its intended home port. After making several trips on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the craft was sold to a firm in Minnesota.

Disappointed at his failure, and determined that steamboats would navigate the river as far as Maquoketa, Barnes fitted out a smaller steamer, the Echo, which plied the Maquoketa River for some time. By 1862 Barnes and his brother Joe had cleared many of the obstructions from the river and put a larger boat, the Viola, into the Maquoketa

trade. Others following were the 80-foot steamers Casino and Equable.

Business was good, and soon the Barnes brothers began building barges to be towed by their steamboats. The boat-yards were located just below the old Tubbs mill, and soon the Barnes brothers were building barges and hulls for business other than their own on the Maquoketa River. They built one hull for a steamboat, the Sterling, named for a town on the Illinois River, but it suffered the same fate as did the Maquoketa City. It never reached its home port.

Steamboat trade on the Maquoketa River flourished for a number of years, but in 1868 it died at the peak of success when both Congress and the State Legislature declared the river non-navigable, and the county began building bridges below the junction of the North and South Forks.

In July 1864 the citizens of Sabula petitioned for incorporation. This petition was granted in the autumn of that year. At the first municipal election, held on February 3, 1865, H. G. Crary was elected mayor and J. F. Fairbank recorder. A special election held July 16, 1866, resulted in approval of a \$6,000 bond issue to build a city jail and to construct a turnpike leading northward towards Bellevue. The turnpike was built by J. C. Pitkin at a contract price of \$4,700, but because it cost more than that to finish, the city jail project was laid aside until the middle 1870's. In 1942 the turnpike was still being used occasionally.

Citizens of the new corporation became extremely worried in 1868 when it was discovered that no Sabula town plat existed. The old town plat of Carrollport was supposedly recorded in Dubuque, but could nowhere be found. Legally no one had a title to Sabula lots and the citizens became uneasy. They appealed to the State Legislature for help, and that body ordered a resurvey of the town to correspond as nearly as possible to the original plat. When this was done, an act was passed providing for continuous valid title for property owners, and everyone felt secure again.

Dogs, wolves, and wildcats were the main perpetrators of illegal acts in Jackson County during the 1860's. The auditor's records showed that sheep were usually their victims, although chickens suffered nearly as badly. In a period of a few years up to 1865, predatory animals had killed sheep amounting in value to \$4,468. Bounties had been paid on 122 wolf scalps at \$5.00 each, and on 78 wildcats at \$3.00 each, amounting to \$844 in all. To aid in paying for the depredations of these animals, the board of supervisors appealed to the State Legislature to provide a \$1 to \$4 tax on dogs.

Hectic Days

Oil fever gripped the people of Jackson County in 1867, when oil was reported discovered at a point near the present-day Green Island. When a handkerchief was placed in the waters of a certain spring it became saturated with petroleum. A company with a capital of \$2,500 was organized to develop this newly-found source of wealth. Experts prospected all around the area, but no well was ever dug. The company expended \$1,000 in the venture, all of which was written off as a total loss.

CHAPTER 9

THE RAILROADS COME TO JACKSON COUNTY

In 1870 three railroads stretched their new, shining tracks across Jackson County prairie lands in the southern part, and a fourth was projected to run along the Mississippi from north to south. Farmers looked forward to a day, soon to come, when their exhausting, dangerous trips to mill and market would cease; when produce could be taken to the nearest railroad station and flour could be bought at the village store, obviating a trip to mill, which sometimes took weeks to complete.

The county's first railroad was the Sabula, Ackley & Dakota, originally named the Western Union Railway Extension. On February 8, 1870, delegations from Ackley, Vinton, Marion, Anamosa, Maquoketa, and Sabula met with President Mitchell of the Western Union Railway at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where it was proposed that the name be changed to the Sabula, Ackley & Big Sioux Falls Railroad. Mitchell promised the party that if the citizens along the proposed route would do the grading and bridging and lay the ties, he would endorse the company's bonds to help them obtain the necessary rails and rolling stock.

While the delegates were still in Milwaukee, an organization meeting was held at Marion, in Linn County, on February 10. Dr. E. A. Wood and J. G. Sugg of Sabula were members of the organizing committee, which drew up articles of incorporation, naming the proposed road the Sabula, Ackley & Dakota, and authorizing a capital stock of \$2,000,000 with shares pegged at \$100 each. A board of directors was named, including Dr. Wood and John Goodenow of Maquoketa. At a later meeting, held February 23, R. D. Stephens of Marion became president for the term of one year.

At about this time, Colonel William Shaw of Anamosa severed his connection with the new company. He had wanted the road to be built first to Clinton, then back through Jackson County and westward. Seeing that he was not to have his way, he went to Clinton and organized the Iowa Midland Railway, proposing to build from Clinton to Maquoketa. Another factor that brought about his change of heart was the building of the Davenport & St. Paul Railroad from Davenport to Maquoketa. This was a new project which bade fair to exclude Clinton and Lyons from railroad facilities for a number of years if the Sabula, Ackley & Dakota completed their plans for building a road to the north. Thus started a three-way race to Maquoketa, but only two roads finished.

In the spring of 1870 the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

and the Western Union Railway became consolidated under the name of the former. In May, engineers were sent to Sabula to begin the survey of the S. A. & D., and in June a contract was closed with the Milwaukee Road for iron and rolling stock for the line between Sabula and Marion.

Work on the Sabula, Ackley & Dakota began in September. The other roads, from Davenport and Clinton, had already begun the laying of rails, but had started at the Scott and Clinton County terminals, making the S. A. & D. the titleholder as Jackson County's first railroad. The first locomotive in the county, a work engine, was ferried across the Mississippi at Sabula.

The S. A. & D. built 11½ miles of road in Jackson County. The line ran south from Sabula, swung in a semi-circle from Clinton County back into Jackson County, and out again towards the southwest, headed for Delmar in Clinton County.

Long before the rails were laid, towns sprang up along the surveyed route of the S. A. & D. F. M. Miles, whose father in 1852 settled on the Miles townsite, offered the railroad company 20 acres of land if they would build a depot at that point. The company accepted, and Miles laid out another 20 acres in town lots, putting the main street on the line between Iowa and Van Buren Townships.

The company also agreed to advertise the lots and to help sell them, but in some manner tied Miles' hands so tight that he could not sell a lot for two years. The company failed in its part of the bargain, however, and Miles sued for \$10,000 damages. The case ended in a compromise whereby Miles paid the railroad company \$750 for the town plat, and within five years he sold over \$10,000 worth of lots.

The railroad construction gang for a time worked out of the new town, which previously was known as Miles' Corners. The work gang dubbed it "Shoo Fly." The name Merrill was proposed in honor of the company's manager, but another town of that name existed in Iowa, so Mr. Merrill himself was asked to name the depot. Before he had decided on a name the station agent received blanks bearing the name Miles, and that name was adopted by the new town. A post office was established there in 1871 with C. S. Hathaway as the first postmaster. The first dwelling was built by T. J. Allen in 1872, and Henry Braase built a hotel the same year.

Preston, four miles west of Miles, was another railroad product of 1870, but there had been considerable settlement of the vicinity since 1836. The Sabula, Ackley & Dakota company and a man named Z. De Groat purchased 136 acres from

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

Chris Farley and Amos Gillett on which to lay out a town. The land cost them \$7,000. The townsite was laid out in 1871, and the embryo town was named Preston, in honor of Colonel I. M. Preston, one of the company's officials. Seventy-five town lots were sold during the year.

Both Miles and Preston developed rapidly for a few years after the first train reached their stations, on December 3, 1870. Later they settled down to a slow, steady growth.

Though the building of the S. A. & D. in 1870 was big news to Jackson County citizens, by far the main interest was centered in the race between the Iowa Midland and the Davenport & St. Paul railways to lay track and get the first train to Maquoketa. This project, which was shared by the county's first railroad for a time, was dropped by the S. A. & D. when it was certain that both the other roads would be completed to Maquoketa.

In the meantime, citizens of Maquoketa reconsidered the situation. Could it be possible that three railroads were to connect the town with the Mississippi River? In his edition of May 5, 1870, the editor of the Maquoketa Weekly Excelsior expressed a doubt that there would ever be parallel roads from the Mississippi to Maquoketa, but pointed out that the three companies were all wealthy and dependable, and expressed his belief that trains would run into the city by the first of August.

Very promptly he was taken to task by the editor of the Sabula Union, who scoffed at the alleged wealth of the Iowa Midland Railway, called the whole thing a farce, and accused its president, Colonel Shaw, of making a big display in the hope that the Sabula, Ackley & Dakota company would buy him off. It was true that Shaw did not have much money behind him at the start, but help from various sources enabled him finally to outstrip the Davenport & St. Paul road in mileage and to force the S. A. & D. to abandon its originally surveyed line to Maquoketa, while the Iowa Midland company built its road from Maquoketa to Anamosa over the S. A. & D.'s proposed route.

A false start in the race to Maquoketa had been made in the 1850's, when the old Iowa Central Airline built the Lyons-Maquoketa roadbed, then in 1857 went out of existence. In 1865 the roadbed and franchise were sold in the United States Court at Dubuque to Platt Smith of Jackson County, who represented the road's working contractors and most of its creditors. Smith and J. P. Eaton then sold the property to the president of the Western Union Railway at cost, with the provision that the title was to revert to Smith if the rails did not reach Maquoketa within three years. A forfeit of \$2,000 was to be paid if the project failed.

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

Unfortunately, the purchaser had acted without consulting his stockholders, who refused to bring their railroad into Iowa at that time. Consequently nothing was accomplished. The forfeit was paid, and Smith and Eaton set about finding other means to bring a railroad to Maquoketa.

Learning in the summer of 1869 that it was proposed to build a railroad from Davenport to DeWitt, in Scott County, J. P. Eaton, Sidney Tubbs, and other influential citizens of Maquoketa went to Davenport and argued successfully for continuation of the road to Maquoketa, via Delmar in Clinton County. Davenport was to subscribe \$160,000 to help finance the venture; DeWitt's donation was \$60,000, and Maquoketa agreed to furnish \$75,000. The Mississippi, Maquoketa & Northwestern then was merged with the Davenport & St. Paul Railway, which agreed to put on the rails and rolling stock. The company acquired the east 60 feet of the old Iowa Central Airline right-of-way between Delmar and Maquoketa, and in October 1869 the grading contract was let.

Not until then did the people of Clinton and Lyons discover that the Davenport & St. Paul company was trespassing in their back yard, and wish they had accepted the offer by Smith and Eaton earlier in the year. Now they discerned the advantages to be derived from a railroad between their towns and the now highly regarded town of Maquoketa. They soon found a friend in the disgruntled Colonel Shaw, who organized the Iowa Midland and purchased the west 40 feet right-of-way from Delmar to Maquoketa. This necessitated a track crossing at Delmar between the rival roads, which were run side by side from that point to their immediate destination.

The big race to get the first train to Maquoketa now started. Both roadbeds stretched into the distance from their starting points, and on July 9, 1870, the Davenport & St. Paul drove the first spike at Davenport. They had nearly twice as far to go as had the Midland Road, whose first spike was driven on August 13.

Other and much larger companies took an interest in the race. When financial difficulties began to plague the Midland company, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy loaned them \$55,000. The note became due while the road was still under construction and, unable to pay, the Midland road appealed to the Chicago & Northwestern for aid. That organization, which had refused the offer of Eaton and Smith, now advanced money to meet the note and gained control of the road, which was completed under its supervision.

Nothing happened to halt the progress of the Davenport & St. Paul Railroad, which completed its track to Maquoketa early in December -- almost at the same time that the Midland Railway reached Delmar.

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

On the morning of December 13, 1870, the puffing, snorting, screaming Wyoming engine pulled out of Davenport, towing a string of five coaches loaded with company officials, Davenport business men, and celebrators. All morning the little train clanked and wheezed through snow-covered plains and timberlands, slowing down now and then to allow passengers to listen to the band music.

Thousands of people besides the Davenport delegation had gathered to witness the arrival of that first train. Another delegation was due to arrive from Clinton and Lyons on the track of the Davenport & St. Paul company. The Davenport company had granted the Midland road the right to use its track in order that the people of those towns might join in the celebration.

As noon approached, the gathering at Maquoketa -- which included Iowa's most prominent railroad men, merchants, bankers, editors, judges, and State officials -- broke into prolonged and lusty cheering and whistling. The black smoke from the Wyoming engine's smokestack was sighted and the train appeared far down the shining steel rails, with the engineer clutching the whistle cord. A few moments later, with a final triumphant blast, the train rolled to a stop at Maquoketa and the immense, hungry crowd poured out of it into the streets. A few seconds later the other train's wheels screeched to a stop, and the Clintonians and Lyonese joined in the procession up the street to feast on roast turkey and chicken, topped off with pastry and washed down with "the best extracts of gun-powder and Java."

At the close of the banquet, President Hiram Price of the Davenport & St. Paul road delivered an address in which he spoke of the fulfillment of a promise made to Maquoketans a year before -- a railroad to their town. Congratulating the people of Maquoketa on their liberality and enterprise, he pictured the happiness of the outside world "in being connected as now with so prosperous and promising a town as Maquoketa, and so rich a country as the garden of Jackson County."

Probably the happiest man in the crowd of many thousands was John Goodenow, first settler and founder of the town. Though now an old man, he "actually went wild with boyish delight -- clapping his hands and shouting aloud for joy at the sound of the first locomotive whistle echoing among the hills. And Father (Thomas) Wright, too, forgetting his seventy-odd winters, in his great glee cut up pranks that would have befitted a ten year old."

Though the race of the rival roads furnished the most exciting news in 1870, Bellevue people didn't overlook the Dubuque, Bellevue & Mississippi Railroad, then being surveyed

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

southeastward from Dubuque. The company, after being incorporated on January 1, 1870, secured the land grant abandoned when two other companies failed, as well as several miles of grading between Dubuque and the mouth of Tete des Morts Creek.

The original plan was to build from Dubuque to Bellevue and then to swing across the Mississippi River into Illinois, but several influential citizens of Clinton induced the railroad to build to that point, and on October 5, 1871, to change the name to the Chicago, Clinton & Dubuque. This railroad later was renamed the Dubuque, Bellevue & Clinton and was completed through Jackson County in 1872.

To help the people of Clinton and of Jackson Counties to pay for the construction of this road, the Iowa Legislature on March 23, 1872, passed a bill stipulating that the collection of railroad subscription taxes would be based on the valuation of the county board of supervisors, instead of on the valuation of the State Equalization Board, which was somewhat higher.

This measure was defeated. The bill pertained to only two certain counties, a provision that clashed with the State Constitution of 1857. Under the constitution's terms, all laws of the State were required to be general and of uniform application. The Attorney General concurred in Governor Carpenter's opinion and the act was declared unconstitutional.

New lifeblood was injected into the town of Green Island when the Dubuque, Bellevue & Clinton came through. Green Island had been settled first by a Mr. Clark, about 1840, and the village which leisurely grew from this settlement was first called Clarkstown, then renamed Green Island -- probably for the large island at the confluence of the Maquoketa and Mississippi Rivers. The town was situated a short distance away.

The village of Fremont got a big boost when the Iowa Midland continued westward after reaching Maquoketa. The railroad skirted the edge of the village and caused it to boom, but on October 20, 1871, the town of Baldwin was platted on adjacent land to the east, and soon both town plats, the station, and the post office were known as Baldwin.

June 15, 1872, Nashville was platted three miles east of Baldwin by D. C. Teeple. Due to the nearness of the two towns to each other and to Monmouth, two miles west of Baldwin, they never grew to large proportions.

When the rails reached Maquoketa, the people of that city made a determined effort to secure the county seat.

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

Arguing that the advantages of the railroad could not offset the city's geographical location in the extreme southern part of the county, the Maquoketans began in June 1873 to build a combination city hall and county courthouse, with a city and county jail in the basement, although the "county" part of the building could not be designated by its true name unless Maquoketa was named the county seat. The new \$14,000 stone building was completed in 90 days, and soon photographs of it appeared all over the county to help voters decide which town they wanted as the seat of justice. Some skeptics termed the pictures "fakes", and people came from all parts of the county to see the new structure for themselves.

The courthouse, providing Maquoketa gained the county seat, was to be leased for \$1.00 to the county for office purposes for a term of 99 years, or for the duration of the county government's location at that place. To help Maquoketa's cause, D. M. Hubbell and 25 other citizens guaranteed the removal of all records, offices, and furniture from Andrew without expense to the county.

In spite of these efforts, the outcome of the election was in doubt until the votes were counted. Then it was found that Maquoketa had won by the narrow margin of 179 votes.

On Monday following the election, before the offices could be moved, the courthouse door was found broken open and the treasurer's office looked, in the words of at least one man, "like a cyclone had gone through." The safe door swung ajar and papers were scattered over the floor. A card containing the dial numbers to the safe door was found, and a plate taken from an inner door showed how the money-box, which was emptied of its contents, had been opened.

The county treasurer reported a deficit of \$41,000, but this figure was raised to \$51,000 by an investigating committee, which accused the treasurer of embezzlement, even though the case did seem to be the work of an outsider.

The treasurer was indicted and tried. He secured a change of venue to Clinton County, where he was convicted and sentenced to serve three years in prison and to pay a fine of \$41,000. His estate was sold under bankruptcy and his bondsmen were sued, but the county recovered only about \$18,000 of its loss.

Removal of the county records and furniture was accomplished on November 9, 1873. Seventy-five farmers with teams and wagons helped without pay.

The citizens of Andrew tried in vain in 1876 to have

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

the county seat returned to their fold. Petitions and remonstrances were circulated and filed in the courthouse at Maquoketa. So bitter was Andrew's struggle that a special guard was placed on the courthouse. On the night of September 14, a brick thrown by an alert policeman foiled an attempted entrance, and the offender was jailed. Later the same night, two other men tried to get in, explaining to the police that they had heard a noise inside and wanted to make sure the petition was safe. All three were citizens of Andrew. The first was fined for resisting an officer; the other two were released.

When the board of supervisors canvassed the lists of signers of the petition and of the remonstrance, they found two more names on the latter than on the former; Andrew's plea for relocation was denied.

The railroads brought more than a line of rail and telegraph wires to Jackson County. Business boomed in the 1870's, and people awakened to the need for civic improvement. Many town streets were macadamized, and bridges were built over the Maquoketa River in several places below the Forks.

The bright side of life became brighter. Baseball games furnished young men and old with fun, excitement, skinned shins, black eyes, and broken fingers. Farmers hailed the day when they received \$1.00 per bushel for their wheat, although stock prices were still discouragingly low at Sabula's Iowa Packing Company -- only \$3.60 to \$3.65 per hundredweight for hogs. Oats brought a fair price, and the Octennial Oat Mill at Sabula could not handle the demand for its products.

The increase in prosperity brought some undesirable things in its wake. Saloons opened in many parts of the county, and temperance societies were organized to combat them. More serious, perhaps, were the sharpers that flocked into the county. Farmers sometimes were induced to sign innocent-looking contracts for purchasing lightning rods or nursery stock, only to have these documents, shorn of part of their wording and thereby converted into promissory notes, turn up at the town bank for payment.

Strayed animals were found many miles from home. One man would call and discover that the animal was not his, then leave and describe it to a confederate. The latter then would call, describe the animal perfectly before he saw it, and usually sell it on the spot rather than go to the trouble of leading it "home."

When the animal's true owner arrived to claim it, arguments and fights often ensued. Someone, usually an innocent party, always lost money.

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

An era of fires started in the 1870's. Maquoketa suffered four destructive fires in that decade, the most serious of which occurred February 13, 1876, when an entire business block was destroyed. Fire-fighting equipment at that time and for a number of years later consisted only of a few ladders and a bucket brigade. It was almost impossible to stop a bad blaze. A grocery, drug store, photo gallery, fancy goods and book store, bakery, meat market, and an unoccupied frame building all were destroyed -- at a loss of \$16,000, of which only \$6,000 was covered by insurance.

Even as the lack of water in February caused a severe loss to Maquoketans, the presence of it in great volume during July of 1876 caused more loss and exasperation. Coming down in buckets, as it were, during Maquoketa's celebration of the Nation's centennial, the rain forced a halt of the festivities.

Midnight of July 3 at Maquoketa sounded like the usual New Year's Eve. Bells rang, whistles screamed, and artillery boomed. At dawn, Americans old and young were celebrating, unmindful of a drizzling rain which had begun to fall. Parades were held through sodden streets, and dripping orators were forced to seek shelter. A fireworks display had been scheduled, but in the midst of the evening's entertainment a deluge of rain sent the celebrators scurrying for cover.

The rain continued almost without letup until the usually drowsy and peaceful Maquoketa River had become a torrent. Early on the morning of July 9 the stream carried away Joseph McCloy's mill dam. Rushing on down the valley, the flood tore a hole in a stone dam three miles below the mill. This dam, 200 feet long and 30 feet wide, had been reinforced by iron cables. But at least 100 feet of its length was swept away by the flood, which continued on towards the Mississippi, inundating bottomlands and carrying off several thousand dollars worth of livestock. Fortunately there were no houses in its path, and no lives were lost.

During the 1870's a railroad between Bellevue and Cascade in Dubuque County was proposed, and on August 30, 1877, the Chicago, Bellevue, Cascade & Western Railroad Company was incorporated, with J. W. Tripp as president. The board of directors included three men from each township along the right-of-way. The capital stock, subscription taxes, and right-of-way were turned over to the Chicago, Clinton, Dubuque & Minnesota railroad, which promised that the proposed narrow-gauge railway would be built and in running order between the two cities by January 1, 1880.

The first grading, witnessed by 5,000 persons, was begun

The Railroads Come to Jackson County

at Cascade September 19, 1878. Some grading was done at Zwingle and LaMotte in the same year, but soon the little organization experienced financial troubles. January 7, 1879, the president resigned and was replaced by James Hill.

The new management soon ran out of money and the stockholders accepted the offer of J. F. Joy, a Detroit capitalist, to take over and complete the road. Joy was represented by George F. Runkel, who, it is said, arrived at Bellevue without enough cash in his possession to pay for a week's hotel bill. Nonetheless it was Runkel, described as an impecunious adventurer, who took over the management on May 17, 1879, and planned, surveyed and supervised the building of the road, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to complete. Furthermore, it was finished on schedule, the first train running between Bellevue and Cascade on January 1, 1880.

The little narrow-gauge trains made daily trips until, with the advent of motor trucks and busses, the line's business gradually decreased. It finally gave up the struggle in 1936.

CHAPTER 10

BOOM YEARS IN EDUCATION

The first school in Jackson County was established at Bellevue in 1836. Dean Gray, the first teacher, was followed in 1837 by Mr. Barrett. Barrett was a farmer and the teaching schedule had to be arranged to allow him to get his corn planting done. Part of the school year of 1837-38, Laura Mallard, an educated woman from New York, taught in the Bellevue school, which by this time was housed in a log cabin on a thoroughfare that later became Front Street. George Cabbage, who had been the first school teacher in Duquette, taught also in Bellevue.

None of these first schools was free or really public, in the modern sense. A tuition charge was made for each pupil, and the length of the school year varied. Often the teacher accepted room and board in lieu of cash for one or more pupils. Money was scarce on the frontier, and what little there was was hoarded for buying land from the Federal Government, which had adopted a "hard money" policy in dealing with settlers on the public domain.

In 1841 Richard Steers taught the first school in Maquoketa. That same year Samuel S. Fenn taught the first school in Andrew. This school was lodged in the courthouse. The Maquoketa school was a log building that at various times had been a root cellar, a hog pen, and a blacksmith shop. This cabin was banked with earth to the bottom of the windows, which were formed by removing logs from the side of the building. The roof, covered with sod, took on colors appropriate to the time of year. In the spring it was tender green; in the fall it turned russet and then brown.

This building in the ensuing years was used for church purposes. The Washington Lyceum, a literary and study group created by the Territorial Legislature in 1844, also used the reconverted root cellar. The Washington Lyceum was really an institution for promoting adult education. Under the terms of the act that created it, a central body was allowed to incorporate and to acquire and hold property to the value of \$10,000. The first board consisted of E. Ellsworth, Nathan Hixon, David J. Osborn, William P. Johnson, Arnold Smith, Samuel Durant, Allen Hinchman, and George F. Gordon.

The first school at Sabula was taught in 1838 by Miss Stearns. In 1844, in connection with a Methodist group of that community who desired to erect a church, the settlers constructed a dual-purpose building. Here religious services were held on Sundays, with school in session five other days of the week.

Boom Years in Education

In the early 1840's a schoolhouse was built in Andrew, and Isaac Garretson was hired as a teacher. A brick schoolhouse built in 1847 was used for many years as a school and in 1942 is in use as a residence.

In 1849, during Ansel Briggs' second term as Governor of Iowa, the State Legislature planned to found State normal schools at Mount Pleasant, Oskaloosa, and Andrew if the citizens of those towns would erect suitable buildings. While the new building in Andrew was being erected, classes in the Andrew State Normal School were started in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

This venture was not a fortunate one. When the new building was almost completed a cyclone wrecked it. Andrew citizens were unable to obtain funds for another building, but for two years classes continued to be held without State assistance. Years later the State Legislature voted an appropriation of \$1,000 to reimburse at least partially those Andrew citizens who had spent and lost their own money on the project.

During the 1850's, in accordance with the provisions of the new Iowa school laws, the county was divided into districts and sub-districts. In 1850 or 1851, the southwestern portion of Maquoketa became Sub-district #1. On a lot donated by John Shaw, the school board built a one-story brick schoolhouse which continued in use during the next six or seven years.

Indicative of the interest taken in the public school system during these years was a petition for the organization of a school district in the vicinity of what later became Miles. The petition, drawn up in 1852 by R. B. Wykoff, was signed by only three persons: Wykoff, E. S. Hathaway, and O. H. Legg. There were only three children of school age in the proposed district: Gurden and George, sons of E. S. Hathaway, and O. H. Legg's son, Marion. The petition of the three men was granted, and thus was formed Sub-district #5, Van Buren Township.

The first school in this vicinity was taught in 1853 by Marcia Miles, daughter of James Miles, a newcomer to Van Buren Township. A flimsy board shanty on the east side of Legg's farm served as a schoolhouse. A more substantial school building was erected in 1854. Later this building was used by James Miles as a barn.

Despite the expansion of the public school system in Jackson County, where full advantage was taken of the various Territorial and State school laws as they were passed, private schools continued to operate for a number of years. In 1851 a private corporation established Maquoketa Academy.

Boom Years in Education

The school was housed in a one-story structure built on a lot donated by John Goodenow. Soon the incorporators felt sufficiently encouraged to expand their plant. They built two additional rooms on the ground floor and added two more stories. Money for building was raised by mortgaging the property to John Goodenow and Alonzo Spaulding.

Unfortunately the plant was now too large for the business. The first census of school-age children in Maquoketa, taken in 1856, showed that the entire number was only 85, and many of these were too young to attend an academy. It is doubtful if there were ever enough pupils to crowd even the first floor. In 1856 the upper stories were filled with rubbish and dust. The mortgage was foreclosed and the building was sold to the Maquoketa school board at a small part of its value.

In 1857, Bellevue Academy was organized to supplement the elementary schools. The Academy was abandoned when the new State Constitution, providing for the grading of high schools, went into effect. Bellevue citizens immediately built a high school and adopted the following resolutions:

All boys not attending school must keep out of the schoolyard during school hours; all pupils getting intoxicated will be excluded from school until their teacher is satisfied that the pupil intends to refrain from the habit.

The Bellevue schools were doing well in 1862. In July of that year, members of Western Lodge #15, I.O.O.F., donated \$1,000 to the school board as a teachers' fund. Of this sum the principal was to be invested and only the interest used. In August the school board's report stated that there were 406 children of school age in Bellevue. There was a brick schoolhouse worth \$4,000; there were three teachers, and 304 pupils attended during the year, with an average daily attendance of 110 and at a cost of 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ weekly for each. The curriculum included arithmetic, reading, grammar, geography, algebra, philosophy, history, spelling, and writing.

Nothing contained in this report indicated that the high school would be discontinued within the next few years, but that it was closed is stated in Clarence Ray Aurner's History of Education in Iowa. According to Mr. Aurner, "there was neither academy nor high school, public or private, in the county of Jackson" in 1871. Financial trouble following the Civil War may have led to this unfortunate result.

Teaching in the early days of the public school system

was so underpaid a profession that school boards had difficulty in maintaining an efficient system. This was due partly to the "general condition of impecuniosity then prevailing," according to D. A. Fletcher, former Maquoketa superintendent of schools, as reported in the Jackson Sentinel of March 21, 1907. Mr. Fletcher blamed defective school legislation also. The "Free School Law" of those years stipulated that parents or guardians of pupils were to meet the tuition pro rata according to the attendance of their children or wards. This bill worked a great hardship on teachers, who were hired at a fixed rate but had to wait until the term was over to get their money.

"Not until then," Fletcher explained, "could it be determined the number of days each pupil had attended, and how much each parent had to pay. Second, many parents were unable or unwilling to pay. Third, it frequently happened that not enough money was collected in the teachers fund to pay them in full. Thus because of the bankrupt teachers fund the teachers became creditors of the parents wholly or in part for the amount of wages due."

Despite financial difficulties, the extension of the public school system continued throughout Jackson County. In May 1858 the three sub-districts of Maquoketa were consolidated into an independent district, and the school board purchased the Maquoketa Academy for a public school building. By August the district not only had no funds but was \$119.09 in debt. Expenses -- without counting teachers' salaries -- amounted to \$281.50. These expenses and the sum required for the salaries could easily have been met had there been an attendance equal to even half the registered number of school-age children. Although 439 such children were registered during the term, only 208 pupils attended. The average daily attendance was only 133.

Teachers' salaries were paid in proportion to attendance. On this basis, teachers in Maquoketa were paid \$25 each month, and the principal \$40 for the same period. The principal was really unfortunate, as he not only taught the largest class in the school but had to superintend all the other classes and all the schools in town. Nor was this the extent of his misfortune. Out of his salary he purchased the school supply of chalk. He saved a little by buying lump chalk instead of the crayon variety, which at the price of 75¢ a box would have been ruinous. He had to sweep his own room, build the schoolhouse fire, and ring the bell. If he considered this work degrading he was allowed 25¢ each week for janitor hire.

There had been a decline in educational standards during the Civil War. This retrogression continued in Jackson County for several years. Schoolhouses continued to be

built -- one of stone in Sabula in 1860 and another of the same material in Andrew in 1866. This latter school was built "just far enough north of town to prevent mutual disturbance on the part of the pupils and others", according to the History of Jackson County (1879). But despite this trickle of building, there was a general apathy about educational matters.

In 1870, County Superintendent of Schools J. W. Fleming determined to wake his fellow citizens from their lethargy. The Maquoketa Excelsior gave him plenty of space in which to express himself, which he did in a series of articles. His grievances were legion, as may be determined from the History of Education in Iowa, published in 1914. This history states that with a total population of 22,000 in 1870, Jackson County had the relatively high number of 8,000 children of school age. Despite this large potential market for education, says the history, "not thirty pupils were studying geometry, not fifty studying algebra, not fifty studying philosophy and not twenty studying astronomy."

In 1871, Hiram M. McCarron of Maquoketa joined in the assault on mental lethargy concerning educational progress. His series of articles in the Excelsior was of the booster type, but through it ran plenty of pungent comment concerning the decadent public school management.

"One of the principal modes of influencing the mind," Mr. McCarron wrote, "is by means of the public schools. What we are doing in educational matters is a question demanding our attention... What is public sentiment demanding? Is not this important interest neglected by overburdening a few with its management? . . . Even horse racing and Platte street (saloon row) lose their interest if neglected. If Platte street cannot command public interest, the management of the schools should. Our graduates from the schoolroom should be at least half as numerous as those from the saloon."

Taking a direct slap at the Maquoketa school board and at D. A. Fletcher, then superintendent of Maquoketa schools, McCarron pointed out that mismanagement due to political log-rolling was destroying public interest in educational matters.

"When personal aggrandizement leads to paying large salaries," Mr. McCarron wrote, "when equally well, if not better qualified persons can be hired for one-third less, it is time to move an amendment, as well as the heads of such managers."

"Visit surrounding places," McCarron concluded one of his articles, "and learn that Maquoketa stands isolated....

Boom Years in Education

in her neglect of intellectual interests...though boasting a twelve hundred dollar salaried principal of schools, four churches, and eight doggeries. Oh! what a record for a proud and boastful people to make in the nineteenth century, surrounded as we are by great natural advantages."

County Superintendent Fleming's articles carried over into 1871. In the Excelsior for March 2 he stated that neglect by citizens was responsible for the low standard of teaching prevalent at that time. By way of illustration, Fleming quoted some of the appalling errors made by prospective teachers in an examination given the year before. Dealing with the subject of geography, one applicant replied to a certain question: "I think that it is not necessary for me to know geography, because you know that I shall have the book to look in, to see that they recited correctly."

Fleming apologetically wrote that he had given certificates to each of the 27 applicants on that occasion, implying that all of them were needed to fill teaching positions then open in the county schools. This lack of applicants was due to the undesirability of the teaching positions.

On March 23, 1871, Fleming wound up his series of articles with these words: "Now what shall we say of these qualifications? What comments shall we make? Indeed is it not a dark picture? Only think that these little ones -- whose infantile cooings and childish prattle have so often beguiled us into happiness, whom we have so often times petted and fondled, soothed into slumber and tenderly laid away to rest for the night with the hope and belief that none but a bright morning could smile upon innocence so pure -- yea think that these little ones must be submitted for their training to such thoughtless, careless, uneducated minds, as the above extracts show some of our teachers to be! The thought must make the heart of every mother bleed, nerve every father to action, and cause every lover of childhood, with clenched fist, to say 'By the Eternal!'"

The attacks of Fleming and McCarron aroused D. A. Fletcher, who took to the Excelsior columns in self-defense. He explained his \$1200 salary by stating that the school board thought he was worth it, whether or not he (Fletcher) or anyone else thought so. And he pointed out that County Superintendent Fleming had given him a first class teacher's certificate.

"What did he (Fleming) mean," Fletcher asked, "in foisting off the instruction of a thirty per cent teacher on the teachers under his charge -- what excuse had he, when our county had raised fifty dollars by taxation...to enable him to procure the services of conductors really able? And yet I rank lower than a thirty per cent teacher in the esti-

mation of the superintendent. Clearly there is no hope for me, nor will be, until the Arithmetic he has so long been hatching has seen the light, been published to an expectant world, and I, the fortunate possessor of a copy at any price have had time to master its precious contents."

The series of articles, accusations, and counter-accusations by this trio touched off a flood of letters to the Excelsior from all over the county. Teachers' wages were compared to those of mechanics. This item alone was good for many columns of argument and rebuttal. McCarron struck back at Fletcher. Fleming defended his position in hiring poor teachers. And so the battle raged.

The result of this newspaper debate was that during 1871 the county established teachers' Saturday institutes for academic instruction. Soon a rumor spread that the institutes had become merely a teachers' entertainment feature, and one teacher was quoted as having said her only interest in attending was to "have fun."

There was one unexpected result. An outside firm thought it saw a possibility of profit in the internal dissension of Jackson County, and in 1871 the Maquoketa Business College was organized. Day and evening classes were held, with the usual commercial subjects. In 1873, due to lack of public support, this school was discontinued, but that same year the Maquoketa school board established a high school course that included commercial branches.

During the 1870's, seven more city independent districts were organized. The one at Miles, organized in 1872, was first called the "Independent District of Shoo Fly", after the name given the community by railroad builders. This name later was changed to the Independent District of Miles. A school was erected, but the town grew so fast that it soon became inadequate. Another building, which cost \$3,750, was completed in 1876. Mrs. A. R. Darling, who as principal of schools had inaugurated the graded system in Miles, conducted for a time a Normal and Commercial School in the new building. Mrs. Darling also founded in 1877 the Miles and Preston Teachers' Association. The Preston Independent School District, organized in 1872, built a two-story brick school in 1873.

When the Maquoketa Academy became too small, a bond issue of \$18,000 was voted for a new high school building. The contract was awarded to George Johnson, whose bid was \$20,950. An additional \$5,000 in bonds was voted to cover the spread between the first bond issue and the contract price, and in 1876 the building was erected. Although the inscription over the main entrance read "High School 1876", the building was soon being called the "Academy," because it stood on Academy Hill.

Boom Years in Education

C. C. Dudley became superintendent of Maquoketa schools in 1876. Under his supervision, Latin, German, mathematics, science, and a business course were added to the curriculum. Mr. Dudley in 1877 opened the first night school in the county. Classes were held in the new high school building. A fee of 10¢ each month to cover lighting and heating costs during the winter months was charged. Mr. Dudley served as superintendent of the Maquoketa schools for 24 years.

The decade of the 1870's seemed to be the turning point in the Jackson County school system. Up to this time there had been frequent periods when the stream of education had threatened to go dry. But now the worst of the depression years following the pioneer period and the Civil War were ended, and from this point on the improvement in educational facilities has been continuous.

In 1942 there are eight public high schools in Jackson County. These are located at Andrew, Baldwin, Bellevue, Maquoketa, Miles, Monmouth, Preston, and Sabula. There are also four parochial high schools, and Maquoketa has an accredited junior college. Total enrollment in the town public schools in September 1941 was 1,539 -- 1,159 in the lower eight grades, 769 in the four upper grades, and 24 in Sabula's kindergarten.

There are only two consolidated high schools in 1942. Baldwin in 1908 had the first school of this kind in the county, but the subsequent withdrawal of a number of sections left the district without the legal number required for consolidation. This necessitated its reclassification as an independent district. The Monmouth district was consolidated in 1915 and Miles in 1916.

Parochial schools in Jackson County are located at Garry Owen, Saint Donatus, Springbrook, Otter Creek, LaMotte, and at Bellevue. Irish and German Catholics, settling early in the county, built churches and developed parish schools.

In 1842 Father Ferridine established the county's first parochial school. This was in St. Patrick's parish at Garry Owen. In 1853-54 this school, originally built of logs, was replaced by a stone structure. Father Edmond Slattery in 1903 added a two-year high school course, which was changed to three years in 1934 and to a four-year course in 1935. A modern two-story building, erected in 1932, served as a schoolhouse and community hall, with the Sisters' living quarters in an annex. In 1940 the high school enrollment was 40, and there were 26 pupils in elementary grades.

The first school at Saint Donatus was established by Father Flammang in 1859. The school building was the rectory of the Catholic Church. A 45-by-75-foot, four-story stone

schoolhouse was begun in 1864, and in 1868 the two upper floors were used for a girls' convent high school, the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River. A boys' high school, built of stone, was erected in 1873. In 1841, 40 pupils were enrolled at the Saint Donatus parish school, but by this time the high schools had been discontinued.

St. Joseph's, largest parochial school in the county, got its start at Bellevue in 1868, when German and Irish Catholics of St. Andrew's parish became disunited. The Germans formed St. Joseph's Society and rented a frame building for church and school purposes. Later these groups were reunited and built a stone church. School was held in the basement. The first high school grade was added in 1887, with a full four-year course operating by 1911. In 1890 the parish erected a 60,000 brick school building, one of the county's finest. Enrollment figures for 1940 were 88 in the high school and 153 in the lower grades.

The St. Lawrence parish school at Otter Creek originated sometime after 1868. Rev. J. B. Goffey planned the school, combined two school districts, and in 1872 erected a frame building. In September 1940 a two-story brick building housed the two-year junior high school. Enrollment at the St. Lawrence schools included 31 in the junior high and 37 in elementary grades.

The first parochial schoolhouse of Saints Peter and Paul parish, Springbrook, was built in 1874. In 1881 a young priest, Father Knapstein, took charge of the parish and soon began construction of a 30 by 30 stone schoolhouse. Father Knapstein worked side by side with laborers in the quarry. Two school districts were later consolidated into the Independent District of Springbrook, served by the Saints Peter and Paul school. In September 1940 the grade enrollment was 100, with no high school in the community.

LaMotte's Holy Rosary parish school was begun in 1893, a year after Father O'Mally founded the parish itself. Formerly this community had been attached to the St. Theresa parish of Saint Donatus. Land was bought for a church, rectory, school, and playgrounds, and in 1893 the schoolhouse was built. In 1907 a 48 by 36, two-story brick school building to provide for eight elementary and two secondary grades was erected. Since that time the high school has been brought up to a full four-year course. In 1940 the enrollment was 75 in the lower grades and 63 in the high school.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque, which has jurisdiction over these schools, holds week-day, vacation, and Sunday schools ranging from two to fifty-two weeks each year at each of the schools named, as well as in the Catholic churches in Andrew, Baldwin, South Barry Green, Green Island, Maquoketa, Preston, and Sabula.

CHAPTER 11

CLOSING DECADES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

If the railroads brought prosperity to some of the old towns, they just as certainly brought disintegration and decay to others. Many of those places that were destined to disappear from the map were just post offices with a few buildings clustering around. Others were prosperous little settlements, with a blacksmith shop and a general merchandise store and perhaps a church and a stage office. It was the latter that was depended upon by the local citizens to bring lasting prosperity. These citizens hoped the railroad that would one day tie the various parts of the country together would follow the same line the stage followed, and would therefore pass through their town. But many times it didn't. It was those towns that were not served by the railroads that wasted away and eventually, in most cases, disappeared. They became ghost towns.

In Jackson County the list is long. There was Alma, Cobb, Copper Creek, Deventersville, Isabel, New Castle, Prairie Springs, Silsbe, Smith's Ferry, Wagonersburg, and Wickliffe, all of them merely post offices or little more. Villages, hamlets, and towns which gave way to outside influences were Bridgeport, Centerville, Cottonville (which seemed destined to become quite a town until the railroad went round), Crabtown, Duggan, Farmer's Creek, Hickory Grove, Higginsport, Hugo, Lowell, Mill Rock, Mount Alger, North Maquoketa, Otter Creek, Ozark, Rolley, Spruce Mills, Sterling, Summer Hill, Union Center, Van Buren, and Waterford.

Typical of all these vanished villages was Cottonville, described in the centennial edition of the Jackson Sentinel, August 19, 1938.

"Where once stood a thriving town," runs the account, "now can be seen a half dozen uninhabited houses and deserted stores, the wind whistles through the broken windows of the blacksmith shop, and shutters clap against dilapidated houses. In the summer the lilac bushes bloom amid peaceful quietness and a profusion of wild vines and bushes grow in the once well kept yards... When the...railroad missed the town...Cottonville began to die.

"Today Cottonville sleeps peacefully with few interruptions. Every two years the general store building is opened as a polling place..., and each Memorial Day members of the American Legion come to decorate the graves of the hero dead."

Closing Decades of the Nineteenth Century

In the late 1870's the coming of electric lighting to small-town America quickened the pace of living. Telephones were installed soon after. When a town that had been lighted only by lanterns or oil lamps witnessed its first illumination by the glow of Mr. Edison's or Mr. Westinghouse's incandescent bulbs, the citizens were pretty apt to become excited. Such an experience came to Maquoketa when on December 24, 1876, 200 electric lamps were turned on in the business district. Wilson and Joe Barnes, of Maquoketa, owned the plant. Some of the details are given in the Excelsior of January 1, 1877. The dynamo was described as resembling a traveling man's trunk, while the armature was a "process of wires."

"From this machine (the dynamo)," the description went on, "flows the electric fluid on its illuminating journey, and to its powerful magnets it returns after accomplishing its mission, the positive and negative currents rushing along each its own way on its own track or wire as tranquilly as a pair of lovers."

"It is their marriage that causes the sparks to fly, as it is their union through an overcharged atmosphere that makes the lightning and thunder." After describing the light globes themselves and the means of conducting electricity into them, the account continued: "The rush of the two currents into each other's (sphere) along this efficient conductor irritates them into a rage of glowing sparks...., filling the globe with an eclipse of light as serene as the moon and bright as the stars. This is the electric light as we have it in Maquoketa."

But no matter what the conditions of this "marriage", all Maquoketa rejoiced over the advent of electric lights.

The county's first telephone exchange seems to have been installed in 1880 in the back room of the Martin drug store in Maquoketa. From that point, lines soon radiated to homes, business houses, and to other towns.

The telephone company put up a trial line into the Sabula schoolhouse in the spring of 1881, but the parents of the school children prevailed upon the school board to remove it. They were afraid that lightning would follow the wires into the school building, and refused to send their children to school until the board had complied with their wishes.

"What imminent peril the business houses in all the cities, nearly every one of which has a wire in it, must be in!" scoffed the Maquoketa Excelsior.

Before the year 1880 was half over, the Mississippi

River went on a June rampage lasting several days. Trains on the river road were halted, and the Bellevue Leader published only a half sheet for a time --- newsprint from Chicago couldn't get through. The floodwaters of the river presented an "awfully grand" appearance to the editor of the Maquoketa Excelsior, but those adjectives stuck in the throats of Bellevue and Sabula citizens. The Mississippi, which with its augmenting floodwaters was estimated to be from four to five miles wide at Bellevue, covered the entire lower part of the town's residences and stores. Lumber company men waded around trying to secure their floating property but lost most of it. Rowboats and ferryboats were in demand. Out on the islands, cattle swam about trying to find a place where they could stand up. Many of them perished. Woodchucks, rabbits, toads, frogs, and snakes filled the branches of trees. The bridges over Duck and Mill Creeks were washed out.

Travelers going to Sabula on the Sabula, Ackley and Dakota Railroad could get no closer than the old village of Greeley in northwestern Clinton County. From there on in they boarded a steamboat which wound around the tops of tall trees. The southern and western portions of Sabula were submerged. All business was halted. At the Iowa Packing Company, men worked night and day removing meats to a higher level. At least 50 families in the small town were forced out of their homes and others were fully prepared to evacuate. School was suspended with the result that small boys spent their time sailing plank boats into the flood or venturing into it themselves.

The financial loss was heavy. However, because of the fact that after the flood had reached its crest it was some time in receding, the regional newspapers that had followed its advent and increase with febrile interest became weary of well-doing and dropped all mention of Jackson County's worst flood. The total figures of loss were therefore impossible to obtain.

Population seems to have reached its zenith in Jackson County in 1880. The census for that year showed a total population of 23,771, as compared with 19,181 for 1940. Other tabulations from the 1880 census show that there were in the county 943 more males than females. There were nine Negroes living in the county at that time.

During this decade in Jackson County the Iowa Packing Company at Sabula bought thousands of head of livestock and sold millions of pounds of finished products. This thriving industry, together with the business done by the Octennial Oat Mill, brought so much prosperity to Sabula that its citizens were able to build and pay for a \$10,000 brick schoolhouse in 1882. The oat mill burned in 1883 and was rebuilt.

Organized fire fighting got its start at Maquoketa in 1882. There had been several bad fires. Agitation for amunicipal waterworks began in earnest also, and in 1833 the system was installed. After several leaks were discovered and repaired, the new utility became a regular feature of domestic and municipal service.

"The pumps work perfectly," exulted the December 15, 1883, Excelsior. "They have been neatly painted by Mr. Stanly with landscapes, flowers and gilt. On one of the exhaust drums the names of the Mayor and the members of the council have been emblazoned in letters of gold for the admiration of coming generations."

When the proposed waterworks had become a certainty, seven men -- Fred Fischer, Gene Hatfield, Alfred Hurst, Bill Jacobson, Will Reeve, Frank Slaughter, and Sam Struck -- met in the Hatfield barber shop and organized themselves into a volunteer fire-fighting company, the "Fire Kings." Each morning during the balmy seasons of the year these men met at the Hurst pasture north of town and went through strenuous running exercises, pulling their hose cart after them. They gave exhibitions, running against time, and engaged in contests with hose cart teams from other towns. The Hurst Hose Team, the Barnes Hose Company, and the Hook and Ladder Company were other volunteer fire-fighting groups in Maquoketa to follow the lead of the Fire Kings.

The men received 50¢ apiece for each fire attended. In at least one year the State Firemen's Convention was held at Maquoketa, and crack teams from all over the State participated in a gala day of contests, exhibitions, and fun.

Maquoketa in 1885 supported five newspapers: the Excelsior, Jackson Sentinel, Reporter, Record, and German Journal. At that time the town was believed to have more newspapers for its size than any other town in the United States.

In 1886 and 1887, inventions by two Bellevue men were the subject of much discussion. A Mr. Watkins surprised a clerk at Bellevue's American Express agency in April 1886, when he presented a draft, drawn on John Gould of New York, for \$279,133.33. He had sold the invention for \$200,000; the rest represented interest. Watkins had invented a railroad car wheel that would not bind on curves.

The other inventor, identity unknown, didn't fare so well. He earned not a penny with his invention, and in other circumstances it might have cost him his neck. Whoever he was, he threw a homemade bomb into the middle of a poker party at a Bellevue saloon one night early in December 1887. The bomb, made of an eight-inch length of gaspipe plugged at

both ends, contained about one-half pound of gunpowder. Although the end of the fuse was charred, the bomb didn't explode. This led to the belief that the whole thing may have been intended as a practical joke. The Excelsior, in commenting on the episode, said, "As a joke, bomb throwing is just about exploded."

In 1888 a railroad from Maquoketa to Dubuque was begun. This railroad, the Maquoketa, Hurstville & Dubuque, was incorporated in July. As soon as the right-of-way was secured, work began simultaneously at both ends of the proposed line. Although real estate values quickly rose along the right-of-way, work soon stopped on the northern portion and the line from Maquoketa was completed only as far as Hurstville.

The Gay Nineties were tranquil years in Jackson County. In 1890 the death rate in Sabula for the previous year was announced as the lowest for any town in the United States during the same period. In 1892, citizens of Preston brought their money out of hiding and deposited it in the town's first bank, opened that year.

One event that was not included on the program of Andrew's Fourth of July celebration in 1894 took place on the farm of Nathaniel Butterworth. At about five o'clock on the afternoon of the Fourth, a 20-pound shell that had been fired at the battle of Missionary Ridge -- but that had failed to detonate -- was taken to an open field, where it was placed in the center of a brush fire. The spectators ran for shelter and soon the shell exploded. According to the Andrew Courier, "pieces of the shell whizzed through the air entirely too close for comfort... Pieces of iron flew in every direction. It might be added that those who participated in the work sought safety behind an adjacent bluff."

In 1898 the county sent a number of men to avenge the sinking of the Maine in the Spanish-American war. In this war disease took a higher toll of lives than did the actual fighting.

As if the war were not enough, in May 1898 a violent cyclone came out of Cedar County, roared along northern Clinton County, skirted the southern edge of Jackson County in the east, stormed across the Mississippi River, and blew itself out in Illinois.

During its trip through Jackson County, the cyclone crippled or killed many head of livestock. It tore trees out of the ground, demolished farm buildings and scattered household equipment. In many places, livestock, household furnishings, chickens, and barbed wire were found in a tangled mass. Monuments weighing several tons were lifted from cemeteries and carried for varying distances.

Closing Decades of the Nineteenth Century

Papers, lath, sticks, and other debris, after being borne across the Mississippi, dropped in Illinois. Near Kent, Illinois -- nearly 25 miles from the last point touched by the cyclone in Jackson County -- farmers found wind-borne pictures of children that had been taken at a photographer's shop in Maquoketa, as well as pillow slips, table cloths, and pieces of vests and tidies torn from clotheslines or swept out of linen closets.

When the storm had passed, citizens of Sabula, Miles, Preston, and Maquoketa organized relief associations to help the farmers in their own and in other counties whose equipment and homes had been destroyed. No lives were lost in Jackson County.

In Jackson County in the eighties and nineties the following religious societies were organized: The Christian Scientists in Sabula, 1885; Free Methodists of Maquoketa, 1866 -- they built their own church in 1890; Christian Scientists, Maquoketa, 1898. On New Year's Day, 1868, the formal dedication of Maquoketa's First Baptist Church took place.

A common sight during the last decades of the nineteenth century and on into the twentieth was the reunions of Union Army veterans. Some of the county associations held several reunions each year. The Union Veterans' Organization of Sabula for a number of years held meetings each Decoration Day, July 4, July 22 (anniversary of the battle of Atlanta), and October 19 (anniversary of the battle of Cedar Creek). Their date for election of officers was May 16 (anniversary of the battle of Champion Hills). Meeting places were Sabula, Preston, and Miles.

Sometimes at these reunions, sham battles were staged for public entertainment. One such battle, at the soldiers' reunion at Maquoketa in 1881, drew the largest crowd assembled in Maquoketa up to that time. Various estimates placed it from 12,000 to 20,000. The Sabula veterans' association provided band music and its membership attended the meeting of Maquoketa veterans to the man.

The battle, fought on the race track grounds, was too realistic for timid spectators. Of the 400 veterans who took part, the larger force naturally represented the Union side. The others reluctantly played the role of rebels. The battle started with a heavy artillery duel, subsided to desultory picket firing, then -- as the forces became engaged at a few hundred feet -- there arose the continuous rattle of musketry. The Union boys stormed the position of the rebels, some of whom -- instead of surrendering when surrounded -- threw down their rifles and engaged in fist-to-fist combat.

Closing Decades of the Nineteenth Century.

Those who had fallen were brought off the field on stretchers. The pink liquid with which they were spattered looked very much like blood. Jim Smith, who wore a wooden leg as a result of injuries in the real war, was brought off on a stretcher and placed on a table in full view of the spectators, where a substitute leg was bared and part of it sawed off by Doctors Bowen and Carnahan. According to rumor this scene was so realistic in appearance that even one of the veterans nearly fainted.

Inevitably, the Union forces were victorious.

CHAPTER 12

AGRICULTURE AND THE COUNTY FAIR

Jackson County farm land proved well suited to dairy-ing and stock raising. Where the terrain was unsuitable for crop farming, blue-grass pasture and timberland, with running spring water, afforded forage for dairy and beef cattle. Soon many herds of grade and purebred stock were established. The crop farming land in the southern half of the county and in areas along the Mississippi River was found to be as good as any in the State. With a temperature range in 1942 of from 102 above zero to 20 below, the growing season, between killing frosts, was 178 days.

Alexander Reed was the first white man to till the soil of Jackson County. This he did in 1833, with an old prairie-breaking plow, and practically all the settlers who followed in the next few years relied upon agriculture for their livelihood. Corn, wheat, and vegetables were their chief crops. There was no need at that time to sow seed for a hay crop; prairie grass was tall and abundant, and needed only to be cut and mowed away or stacked to provide sufficient winter forage.

As the pioneers moved westward, grist mills were established. In 1836 Kinkaid's mill, built at Bellevue, served Alexander Reed and his neighbors. Other grist mills and saw-mills were built until every available source of waterpower on every Jackson County creek was harnessed.

The coming of the railroads made it easier for the farmers to market their livestock and produce. The bridging of the county's main streams, which was done at an early date, permitted farmers to get their products to market by wagon or on the hoof.

In the early days of Jackson County farm development, farmers were confronted by many hazards that did not handicap their successors. Predatory animals, such as wolves, wildcats, foxes, and roving dogs, got at the sheep and young cattle. Minks and weasels and hawks killed the chickens. And there were seasonal floods that caught the farm animals grazing along the Maquoketa or along the Mississippi Rivers, drowning many of them. Also, while those old stake-and-rider fences looked picturesque, in every herd there developed certain cows of bad will with the ability to go through any rail fence. The coming of cheap barbed wire in the 1880's provided farmers with their first inexpensive and effective fencing material.

But even good fences, which could keep the cows and

other animals in, couldn't keep the thieves out. Laws were not as firmly and as efficiently organized in pioneer days as they now are, and there were no inter-county telephones to head off the thieves, nor fast automobiles with which to follow them. Cattle thieving and horse thieving were common, and their results were galling to all farmers. Then there were prairie fires, which were only done away with after the vast stretches of virgin grass land were broken up by plowed and tilled crops.

Despite these handicaps, which gradually disappeared as the county grew older, Jackson County farmers early went into the lead in at least one important branch of the purebred livestock business. In the early 1880's, Maquoketa was considered the "Red Polled" center of the United States, and the American Red Polled Herd Book was published there almost from the date of introduction of the breed into the United States. J. C. Murray of Maquoketa owned the first Red Polled herd in Jackson County, and added to it by importations of the finest animals he could find. It was known as Murray's "Royal Herd."

A. Y. Sweesy's "Timber City Herd", the county's next most important herd of Red Polls, was founded from Murray's importations. Until 1908, when Sweesy's entire herd was sold to the Louck brothers of South Dakota, more State, Interstate, and National premiums were won by the herds of Murray and Sweesy than by all other herds of the breed in the United States. Murray's Red Polls had previously been sold or removed. The Maquoketa Excelsior, while bemoaning the community's loss, consoled local citizens with the thought that if the Louck brothers were "draining Jackson County of its fine cattle," at least they were "leaving a lot of good money behind."

After buying the Sweesy herd, the Louck brothers went to the Rosemere Farm of Otto V. Battles, near Maquoketa, and purchased five head of purebred Aberdeen-Angus cattle. These animals were part of the Rosemere herd which Battles' father, Samuel Battles, had started a number of years before.

After the senior Battles' death in 1904, Otto V. Battles became the operator of Rosemere Farm and developed the herd of "doddies" into the most outstanding of its breed in the world. Battles' Rosemere herd "won more prizes than any other herd of any breed in the world", according to Who's Who in Iowa, 1940, published by the Iowa Press Association.

Battles, starting to exhibit in 1906, in eight years had won 454 first prizes, 347 seconds, 201 thirds, and numerous lesser awards. Among them were included 118 championship and 73 grand championship awards. During this period

Agriculture and the County Fair

his animals were awarded \$21,250 in prize money, besides many medals and cups.

Nor were these prizes won at county fairs or lesser shows. The Battles herd was exhibited at every major fair and livestock show on the North American continent, notably the annual International Livestock Exposition at Chicago and the American Royal livestock show at Kansas City.

After 1906, with the show string recruited by animals from the Rosemere herd near Yakima, Washington, where Mr. Battles resides in 1942, the Battles entries produced "Unparalleled International Show Records", to quote the Rosemere Farms letterhead. Many show records supported this claim.

Battles' one-time herd sire, Glenfoil Thickset 2, won the Junior Championship at the International of 1903, and successive Grand Championships at the same show in 1907, 1908, and 1909. "This phenomenal succession of winning," wrote Mr. Battles, "sets Glenfoil Thickset 2 out as the greatest show bull of all time, his record never having been equaled down through the years."

A herd like this inevitably brought Mr. Battles many personal honors. According to Who's Who In Iowa, 1940, he was the "only American called to Great Britain to judge Aberdeen Angus cattle; has judged at greatest show at Perth, Scotland, 1929; only person from United States to be called to Argentina to judge, also judged at Buenos Aires, Aug. 1940; writer for magazines and trade journals of North and South America and England;...well-known in all of these countries. American Aberdeen Angus Breeders Assn., past president two terms, 1916- director; (member) Saddle and Sirloin Club of Chicago, portrait hung in Gallery of Fame of this club, Chicago, Illinois..."

Glenfoil Thickset 2 was sold to W. A. McHenry of Denison, Iowa, in June 1909, and exhibited by him at the International show that year. His purchase price established a record for Aberdeen Angus bulls up to that time. But this record was eclipsed in January 1937, when Battles' Epponian 8 of Rosemere, Grand Champion bull at the 1936 International, was sold. The prices paid for each of these bulls was not made public, but Mr. Battles states that he refused a \$50,000 offer for Idolmere, his 1919 International Grand Champion bull.

There were other illustrious successors to Glenfoil Thickset 2, and the list of grand championships and lesser awards won by the Rosemere Farms would fill several volumes. Besides Idolmere and Epponian 8 of Rosemere, Jackson County citizens remember Oakville Quiet Lad, 1910 International

Grand Champion; Blackmere 16, 1922 International Junior Champion; Prizemere 141, 1933 American Royal Grand Champion; Barbarian of Rosemere 64, 1933 International Grand Champion; Blackcapmere 113, American Royal Grand Champion of 1937 and first prize three-year-old and Senior Champion the same year at the International; Prizemere 397, unbeaten as a two-year-old at all major livestock shows of 1937 except the International, where he was Reserve Champion; and Prizemere 32, who, says Mr. Battles, was rated as the "most outstanding sire of all the beef breeds between the years of 1927 and 1936."

While Glenfoil Thickset was establishing his winning record, Glenfoil Queen 2 became the Grand Champion Female at the 1907 International, while Her Majesty 2 won the same award in 1908. Queen of Rosemere 5 was Junior Champion Female at the 1917 International. Others were Barbara C.B.2, Grand Champion Female at the 1923 American Royal; Pride of Rosemere 67, Senior and Grand Champion Female, International, 1926; Barbara of Rosemere 64, Junior and Reserve Champion, 1928 International; Blackbird of Rosemere 164, 1925 American Royal Grand Champion Female; and Barbara of Rosemere 100, 1933 International Grand Champion Female. All of these animals won similar prizes at other exhibitions, including most of the major agricultural state fairs.

On June 20 and 21, 1938, the Rosemere Farm at Maquoketa held a dispersal auction sale. Nels Kraschel, then Governor of Iowa, opened the sale, which attracted at least ten officials of the American Aberdeen Angus Breeders Association. Top price for any animal was the \$3,500 paid for a cow, Epponia C. B. 2, with bull calf at heel. Mrs. H. Hamilton Hackney of the Cold Saturday Farm near Finksburg, Maryland, purchased this cow and 27 other head, paying \$13,000 for the lot. The top price for a bull was the \$2,000 paid by Dr. George Laughlin of Kirksville, Missouri, for three-year-old Prizemere 387.

Nearly 200 head of purebreds were sold at approximately \$480 per animal. Buyers attended from 17 states and two Canadian provinces. Up to this time, Battles had for a number of years held limited annual sales. At the sale held in 1936, two purebreds were sold for delivery in New Zealand.

The 1938 price-per-animal record was shattered on June 10, 1942, when the Rosemere Farm at Maquoketa sold 42 head at an average price of \$555. The sale of just one cow made most of the difference. She brought \$5,100.

The Rosemere herd was not the only important herd in the county. The D. Tietjen herd of purebred Shorthorns near Bellevue won many prizes for its owner in competition with other herds from several Midwestern states. His herd was exhibited at a number of Midwestern state fairs.

Agriculture and the County Fair

In March 1920 the Martin-Duer sale of purebred Shorthorns near Green Island broke the record for prices paid for the breed in eastern Iowa. A heifer brought \$3,475, while her mother sold for \$2,500. A grandson of this cow was purchased for \$2,900, and a granddaughter at \$1,000.

The better-known Jackson County purebred herds of 1942 are the Rosemere Farm's Aberdeen Angus; the Shorthorn herd founded in 1903 and owned in 1942 by John E. Goodenow, grandson of Maquoketa's first settler; the Shorthorns of Alexander Reed of Bellevue; the Herefords of Edward Kirchhoff near Miles, herd founded in 1936; and the C. A. Meyer & Son's nationally prominent herd of Herefords near Bellevue. Meyer's herd head won the Grand Champion award at the Iowa Hereford Association's show at Des Moines on February 4, 1941.

In other livestock lines, Jackson breeders are or have been well-known nationally. The John Grant & Son's herd of purebred Poland China hogs at Spring Valley Farm, near Preston, was so popular with breeders that at a sale held in September 1919, Mr. Grant received \$1,000 for his herd head, Great Giant, whose half-brother brought \$500. A gilt by Grant's Big Jones was sold for \$600. About 60 head were sold at an average of \$166 per hog. The sale netted about \$10,000.

In the 1880's, Captain J. Murray Hoag of Maquoketa bred Shetland ponies and sold them in every state in the Union. In 1888 his herd of 200 head was said to be the largest on the North American continent.

Jackson County farmers have won numerous prizes for grain exhibits. Among these prizes was a bronze medal won by Roy E. Coverdale for a corn exhibit during "Iowa Day" at the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915. That same year, Coverdale won a prize at the Iowa State College corn show with a single ear exhibit.

In February 1941, Claire Reistroffer won first prize at the Iowa Corn and Small Grain Growers show at Ames. This prize was for growing the largest amount of corn on ten acres. His yield averaged 111.28 bushels of bin-dry corn per acre. There were 140 other entries.

A Jackson County farm boy, Darwin Reichling of Maquoketa, was elected president of the Iowa unit of the Future Farmers of America on May 9, 1930, during Iowa State College's Veishea festival. Reichling, who was an amateur boxer, celebrated that night at the Orpheum Theater in Maquoketa by knocking out Cliff Wells of Carbon Cliff, Illinois, in one minute and 58 seconds of the first round.

October 15, 1940, a women's corn husking contest was

held on the P. H. Dell farm, near Hurstville. During the 40-minute contest Mrs. Albert Hinrichsen of Baldwin husked 966 pounds (about 13 bushels), and was declared the winner. Many of the approximately 1,000 spectators who watched the farm women hurl ears of corn against the "tangboards" afterward attended Pancake Day in Maquoketa.

Another semi-public celebration took place in Jackson County when on June 15, 1939, friends and neighbors gathered at the farm of Lawrence L. Littlefield, four miles north of Andrew, to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the farm's establishment. When Moses Littlefield left Milford, Massachusetts, the railroad ended at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From that point on the Littlefield family traveled by river steamer, down the Ohio and up the Mississippi. They landed at Bellevue and spent the first night in the notorious Brown Hotel. On June 15, 1839, Mr. Littlefield staked out his pre-emption claim. Since that date the farm has been owned always by a member of the Littlefield family. Moses was succeeded by his son, Samuel, and he by his son, Lawrence. Lawrence Littlefield died March 15, 1941, and in 1942 the farm was occupied by his widow and by his son, Glen. The boundary lines have remained the same except for one acre, which contains a spring. It was sold to the county to water livestock on the county farm.

Jackson County farmers have long been connected with National farm movements. The Jackson County Farmers' Institute was organized about 1881, and the Farm Bureau in 1917. In 1941 there were approximately 1800 cooperating farmers registered with the latter group. J. H. Stimson is the County Agricultural Agent.

When the Agricultural Adjustment Administration was created, Jackson County farmers were prompt to take advantage of its benefits. August Levsen of Brandon Township received the first AAA check in Jackson County, on June 9, 1934. Although participation in the corn-hog program was greater there in 1934 than at any other period up to 1942, there were 1,732 Jackson County farms out of a total of approximately 2,300 still cooperating in the latter years.

A Civilian Conservation Corps camp of 200 members was established at Maquoketa early in the Corps' history. Work on soil erosion was undertaken. The men were removed to Cascade in May 1934, but the Maquoketa camp was reopened a short time later with 250 workers.

The farmers in the vicinity of Saint Donatus practiced soil conservation long before the existence of the CCC. "Gullies and hills have been seeded down for years, and almost no erosion is in evidence," states the April 17, 1939, Davenport Democrat & Leader. "They farm by themselves with-

out the help of outsiders, and altho they do not profess to be rich, there is only one tract of land in the township (Tete des Morts) with delinquent taxes; the taxes amount to only \$28 and the land is owned by an outsider who lives in California."

A different type of conservation movement was the establishment in 1934 of the Silver Creek Quail Area #2, consisting of 2,315 acres lying entirely within Maquoketa Township. Farmers on the acreage agreed to create shelters, supply feed, and to protect birds from predatory animals and human hunters.

During the unusually severe winter of 1935-36, practically every farmer in the county made shelters for game birds and fed them when they were left half-dead from hunger and bitter cold.

Several annual events are staged for Jackson County farmers. There is the annual dairy dinner at Preston, and the Dairy Cattle Feeding School, both held in January. The feeding school was held in Buckhorn community in 1942. In this locality, also, the Farmers Union Cooperative Creamery sponsors a picnic and calf club show annually. In August the Andrew Community Club and Co-op Creamery holds an annual picnic, complete with a street parade, with prizes for floats, mule and horse teams, single horses, clowns, ponies, and decorated bicycles. A comprehensive sports program offers cash prizes. At the 1941 picnic the attendance was reckoned in the thousands. Since 1938 there has been an annual Jackson County Beef Feeders' banquet, usually held in November. The Farm Bureau holds its annual banquet in December, as does the Jackson County 4-H club.

The first Jackson County Fair, held at Maquoketa, October 25-26, 1854, was an indication that the rural portion of the county was becoming socially and economically conscious.

A 20-acre plot, situated near the present Milwaukee depot, was rented from Zalmon Livermore as a site for the exhibition. Premiums offered for the best quilts, hogs, mechanical inventions, flowers, sheep, chickens, cattle, and horses amounted to \$101. A patent corn planter attracted a lot of attention among the farmers.

Accommodations for livestock were limited. Makeshift pens had been built for sheep and hogs, but cattle and horses were tied to posts. There were no exhibition halls. Grain, vegetables, and flowers were displayed on tables in the open air, but fortunately the weather was favorable throughout the two days of the county's first fair. There were enough visitors to assure success.

"We notice that the fairs held in Dubuque and Muscatine kind of flattered out," gloated the Maquoketa Sentinel. "Not so with old Hickory. -- Three cheers for old Jackson: Sound in Fairs as well as Democracy."

In 1855 the agricultural society laid out a half mile track on the fairgrounds, and offered premiums that ranged from 50¢ to \$3.00. At this fair, George V. Arnold's livestock earned for him the amazing sum of \$14.50!

Soon Maquoketa was in a position to stage a fair every year. Andrew, however, was selected as the fair site in 1859 and 1861, but in 1862 the fair again was held at Maquoketa. In 1863 the society leased acreage near the Maquoketa business district for a period of ten years. The intention was that this land at the termination of the lease should be purchased by the fair association, and on that supposition the grounds were fenced at a cost of \$450, and a half-mile race track was constructed.

In 1867 the project of turning the fairgrounds into a municipal investment was brought before the voters of Maquoketa. It failed by the narrow margin of 33 votes to carry. Eventually the society, after reorganizing and incorporating under the name of the Jackson County Fair Association, purchased the fairgrounds, upon which considerable sums of money had been spent. This purchase was made in 1885. By the turn of the century the claim was made by society members that the fair association had some of the best exhibition buildings and one of the fastest half-mile tracks in Iowa. By this time the value of the investment was \$5,000, and the indebtedness was only \$500.

The last Jackson County Fair held under the old management was in 1930. That was a year when, because of devastating drought in July and August, farm receipts were at a low ebb. This factor, together with the general business depression, made it impossible for the fair association to pay its debts. When in 1931 the charter expired, these debts amounted to \$5,000.

But the people of Jackson County were not willing to let the county fair expire. The task of sponsoring it was taken over in 1931 by Timber City Post #75 of the American Legion, and a fair was held at Maquoketa in September of that year. An unusual feature of that year's fair was the absence of the usual midway, with its catch-penny concessions. In spite of or perhaps because of this change, the attendance record broke all previous annual totals.

In November 1933 the trustees of the Jackson County Fair Association sold the fairgrounds to the Maquoketa Recreation Park Association for \$3,300, and a four-day fair was held in 1934 under the new ownership.

Agriculture and the County Fair

During the years intervening between 1934 and 1942, the Maquoketa Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the Jackson County Fairs. In 1941 the attendance numbered 25,000. The peak day was Friday, August 15, with an attendance of nearly 10,000.

If a successful county fair, maintained year after year for several generations, is an index of rural prosperity, home ownership of farms is even more significant. The report of W. G. Murray, Iowa State College economist, published in the Sentinel-Excelsior for February 14, 1941, stated that in 1940 insurance companies and the Farm Credit Administration owned only 3,000 acres of Jackson County land -- amounting to less than one per cent of the county's 364,196 acres of farm land. Over the State of Iowa as a whole, the insurance companies and the Farm Credit Administration owned six per cent of all farm land. The Iowa Yearbook of Agriculture for 1940 stated that 63.3 per cent of Jackson County farm lands were operated by owners. This contrasted with 44.4 per cent of home ownership over the State. Jackson County in this item was second among all the counties of the State -- with Dubuque County first.

CHAPTER 13

THE MODERN COUNTY

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Jackson County, like most other Iowa counties and indeed like most portions of the United States, had pretty well found itself. Ways of living had been worked out in accordance with environmental peculiarities. Farmers had learned to farm, if not to the best advantage, at least very well. And county towns had fitted themselves into the mechanism of county life.

Some of the developments that came early in the new century could not have come in pioneer days. For instance, on April 25, 1903, the Jackson County Historical Society was formed, with headquarters at Maquoketa. At the first election of officers, which took place May 7, 1903, D. A. Fletcher was elected president, M. T. Fleming vice president, Harvey Reid treasurer, and J. W. Ellis secretary and curator. After the society disbanded the museum continued to be maintained. In 1942 the Ellis Museum at Maquoketa was nationally recognized.

There was an oil furore in Jackson County in 1906. Traces of oil were found on the Sam Earle farm, five and one-half miles northeast of Maquoketa. Expert oil men for the big companies arrived and presumably made an investigation for their principals, but their reports must have been discouraging, as nothing more was heard from them. They seem to have come and gone very quietly. A local concern, the Jackson County Oil & Gas Company, was formed. This was in April 1907. Capital stock was \$50,000, shares were sold at one dollar each, and 1,000 acres of land in the vicinity of the original find -- if it was a legitimate find -- were leased. In a short time the entire project was abandoned. Rumors drifted about the county that the spot where traces of oil had been found had been "salted", as fake gold mines sometimes were in the West.

Another flash-in-the-pan enterprise of this early part of the new century was the Eastern Iowa Traction Company, with its proposed road through Maquoketa, Bridgeport, Andrew, Cottonville, and LaMotte. Again there was an incorporation and an election of officers. The proposed right-of-way was surveyed, and in August 1907 enthusiastic statistical reports and a map were distributed. But the enterprise lacked viability, and by 1909 it was dead.

A few years later, when the preliminary effects of the first World War reached Jackson County, there were listed a total of 1,597 potential draftees, including 30 aliens.

The Modern County

Howard Bickford had draft number 258, the first number drawn in the national lottery.

The Women's Relief Corps staged a Patriotic Day celebration at Maquoketa in September 1917 to honor the soldiers of the county who were in camp. A large crowd attended to witness the dedication of the new flagstaff. When the flag had been hoisted about two-thirds of the way to the top of the flagpole, it was unfurled, and hundreds of small flags were released from its folds to float over the heads of cheering spectators.

At the second draft registration, held on September 14, 1918, the names of 2,279 more Jackson County men were added to the eligible list. Fortunately, however, the war ended less than two months later, and it is doubtful if any of the later registrants saw service overseas.

In addition to its wild, unscheduled victory celebration on November 11, 1918, Maquoketa presented another memorial program during its Fourth of July celebration in 1919. This was the first really joyous Fourth the county and the Nation had had in several years, and the Excelsior claimed that the crowd attending this celebration was the largest ever seen in a city of Maquoketa's size.

The biggest news of the 1920's, and the largest engineering project ever undertaken within the confines of Jackson County, was the construction of the Eastern Iowa Power Company's hydroelectric dam on the Maquoketa River. This project had long been advocated by Abraham A. Hurst of Maquoketa. His belief in its soundness was shared by John Reid of the Iowa Electric Company, which at the time supplied Maquoketa with electricity. Many local businessmen were interested in the power idea, but among them were a number who wanted a light plant municipally owned rather than one built by private investors. The company offered ownership of the enterprise to Maquoketa businessmen through self-incorporation, but retained for itself the right to build the dam.

This proposition suited Mr. Hurst, who owned the land in the vicinity of the old Pinhook lime kilns where the dam was to be built. In cooperation with his friends and business associates, on March 16, 1922, Hurst filed articles of incorporation of the Maquoketa Hydro-Electric Power Company. This name was changed in February of the following year to the Eastern Iowa Power Company. Under this name it still operates in 1942. Mr. Hurst was elected president.

On March 31, 1923, the builders accepted the \$230,000 bid of Price Brothers of Toledo, Ohio, and work on the dam soon started. The bid, however, did not cover machinery and

structural ironwork. When completed, late in 1923, the dam, sub-station, and powerhouse cost nearly \$400,000.

The dam proper was 176 feet long, with a dike extension of 450 feet. Capacity of the two large generators, driven by giant turbines, was 33,000 volts. Other features were the six flood gates, five electrical and one hand-operated, considered to be of sufficient capacity to avoid danger from floodwaters and ice jams; and the modern fishway, four feet in width, which was built adjacent to the north abutment wall. The corporation purchased 487 acres of land to take care of the overflowage, which created a lake approximately eight miles long.

The seven hydros in 1942 supply electrical power to two loops in eastern Iowa. These are joined at Anamosa, in Jones County. From that point Loop #1 runs east to Maquoketa, south to DeWitt in Clinton County, then northwest back to Anamosa. Loop #2 runs from Anamosa southwest to Marion in Linn County, north to Manchester in Delaware County, and in a semi-circle to the east, south, and west back to Anamosa. From this point the line runs to the powerhouse at Lakehurst.

Both loops supply other small towns in each of the counties mentioned, including Monmouth, Baldwin, and Nashville in Jackson County. During low water periods and other times when a heavier load is required, the plant is aided by current from the Iowa Electric Company's plant at Cedar Rapids.

While the dam was being built, the overflow lands were cleared of obstructions. When the lake rose, the shore line was improved so that the neighborhood became widely known as a recreation center under the name of Lakehurst.

Lakehurst soon became a favorite meeting place for picnic parties, and crowds of pleasure seekers gathered there for Fourth of July celebrations and to dance to the music of well-known touring orchestras. At the Independence Day celebration of 1929 the attendance was 15,000.

In 1936 and 1937, disasters due to fire and flood ended not only this by-product of the power development, but for a time put a stop to the output of power from the sub-station. Lakehurst Pavilion was completely destroyed by fire in 1936. The loss was estimated at \$15,000. The following year, when a heavy ice jam snapped the chains of the floodgates and forced them shut, the resulting flood undermined the power plant and sent it toppling into the river. The flood water also washed out one side of the dike and thus drained the lake. The sub-station was rebuilt in 1939.

The Jackson County Vigilantes, organized in 1925, aided

for a period of about 15 years in law enforcement within the county. The group numbered about 40. Their equipment consisted of 20 high-powered rifles, 20 service revolvers, a few riot guns, and a sub-machine -- or "Tommy" -- gun, besides a number of "spike" belts, bullet-proof vests, flares, and road signs. Vigilante members built and maintained their own rifle range. They held numerous meetings, carried on target practice, and attended many outside meetings, all at their own expense.

Subject to call at any time, the Vigilantes were "able to block every road in the county and have it under guard within 20 minutes", stated the Sentinel-Excelsior of January 5, 1940. The group received special commendations from J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as from the State bureau. The Vigilantes disbanded early in January 1940, because of lack of funds. The Jackson County Bankers' Association, which furnished surety for the Vigilantes, announced that it no longer considered the expenditure warranted.

The stock market crash of 1929 and the business depression following seem not to have caused any great hardship in Jackson County, in comparison with the State and with the Nation as a whole. Previous to the bank holiday of January 1933, a few banks closed, but they did so only because unusually heavy withdrawals depleted their legitimately narrow margin of working cash.

The 1930 census showed that there were 146 persons unemployed in the county, which was no more than normal. At that time the work of paving the county's main roads helped to keep unemployment down. However, the county had always maintained a condition of solvency and was in the first group of 12 counties to be cut off from State relief funds.

Construction of the Sabula-Savanna bridge across the Mississippi also aided employment in the first three years of the depression, besides greatly augmenting the flow of east-west traffic through the county and thereby opening a new source of revenue -- the tourist trade. Work started on the Iowa side of the bridge in 1931 and the structure, completed late in 1932, was opened to general traffic on December 31 of that year. The 2,488-foot steel and concrete bridge had an overhead clearance of 55 feet at high water stage. The total cost of \$750,000 included \$250,000 paid for labor.

The business recovery of the middle and late nineteen thirties was aided in Jackson County by construction of Lock & Dam #12, Mississippi nine-foot channel series, at Bellevue. Begun late in 1936, the \$5,000,000 structure was dedicated on Labor Day, 1939. Though the dam proper was the shortest

in length on the upper Mississippi, together with its dike it was the longest, stretching for 8,339 feet across the river and adjacent lowlands of Illinois.

The overflow lands caused by the dam were thrown open to the public for hunting purposes. On October 24, 1939, a bird feeding and shelter project, designed to make the best use of this land and operated by volunteer workers, opened at Maquoketa.

Nineteen-thirty-seven may well be called the year of the Big Water by Jackson County citizens. The Maquoketa River flood that did so much damage at Lakehurst also forced the CCC camp to move to a higher level twice within a few weeks. At Bridgeport the highway was covered with water to a depth of several feet, with the result that state highway workers stationed there were kept busy rescuing floundering motorists.

A previous flood, besides washing out numerous county bridges, had caused the first CCC camp evacuation. A flood during June washed out railroad tracks near Green Island and Bellevue and caused heavy crop damage. In at least one spot, near the Alex Reed farm on Highway 87, water stood ten feet deep.

Heavy rain falling on August 16, 1938, failed to drive from the streets the 11,000 spectators who gathered to watch a parade organized to celebrate Jackson County's first centennial anniversary.

One thousand people took part in the parade. There were seven bands, most of them from Jackson County, and 185 horses and 75 motor vehicles. First prize for a decorative float went to Sabula. This float represented the landing of Isaac (Ike) Dorman, one of Sabula's first settlers. Another float, sponsored by the Maquoketa Valley chapter of the Izaak Walton League, showed a portion of Jackson County as it had been in 1838. All the background details of pioneer life -- the underbrush and timber, the foxes, deer, and other animals -- were there.

In addition to the parade, historical displays in which antiques valued at \$500,000 were exhibited filled town-town windows. The historical pageant drew 2,000 spectators to its first performance, where Miss Gladys Hutz of Maquoketa was crowned Centennial Queen. The children's parade, which took place on the second day of the centennial, also enjoyed a large crowd.

The first draft list released to the public following the draft of October 16, 1941, contained the names of 3,000 Jackson County men. James Gilbert Stoll, a Freedom Party

The Modern County

youth, had number 158, which proved to be the first one drawn in the national lottery.

The first five Jackson County registrants to volunteer for service in the armed forces were Robert Gage and Jack Raymond Hummel of Sabula, and Robert William Dyas, DeLoss Leon Romer, and Marvin Edward Herman Flagel, all of Maquoketa. Gage and Hummel, who filled the county's first induction quota of two, left on November 29, 1940, for Fort Des Moines.

On July 1, 1941, 101 additional Jackson County youths registered in the second draft. The names of 1,080 older men and youths were added to the list on February 16, 1942. More men volunteered or were inducted from time to time, and it is believed that some of them were engaged in combat in the Philippines or in the Southwest Pacific in 1941 and early in 1942.

At home, Jackson County citizens contributed generously to auxiliary activities. During the week of September 5 to 11, 1941, when theaters all over the United States participated in a drive for United Service Organization funds, the Pastime Theater of Maquoketa reported the largest contribution among independent theaters of Iowa.

Red Cross chapters in the county reported that in the drive ending February 16, 1942, their quotas had been exceeded. A check for \$1,079.32 presented by the H. L. Bowman Cattle Company of Maquoketa, covering that company's profit on a benefit calf sale held February 14, aided greatly toward the achievement of this result.

CONCLUSION

Jackson County, like every other community of human beings living in a limited and definite setting, exhibited very early in its development a distinct individuality. It differed from all other Iowa counties.

Most of the qualities that gave it this individuality were valuable. There was, for instance, the useful balance between the different kinds of natural wealth the pioneers found in this land beside the Mississippi. Jackson County was largely agricultural, but it had also one of the finest stands of timber in the entire State. And it had abundant waterpower, which was important during the pioneer phase -- when neighborhood mills enabled farm families to turn their corn and wheat into whole grain flour or meal, rich in minerals and vitamins. There was plenty of game to add variety to the family bill of fare. And there was enough lead ore in some parts of the county to make mining a first-rate "money crop" during the pioneer period. All of these resources, so well balanced, made it possible for the pioneers to maintain a decent standard of living while the farms were being brought into production. Not all Iowa counties were so fortunate.

Another way in which Jackson County differed from many other Iowa counties was in the type of its early settlers. These men and women were usually the second or the third generation to live in the United States. The mixing process that takes an Englishman and a Norwegian and a German and perhaps an Indian and after a sufficient lapse of time brings forth one of those many-sided and racially distinct beings called "American" had been done elsewhere. There were few if any foreign language colonies. From the standpoint of community efficiency this was an advantage. Jackson County citizens were able to think effectively together and to work together partly because they were homogeneous, were the same kind of people.

A third trait in the composite individuality of the county was its highly dramatic pioneer period. Many Iowa counties had their rough characters, their horse thieves and gamblers and counterfeiters. Few suppressed this criminal element, once for all, with the vigor of those pioneers who fought for law and order in the Bellevue War. The Vigilantes of a later period reflected this same practical respect for law: a kind of respect that did the things necessary to law enforcement when the laws had ceased to enforce themselves.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Sources from which a bibliography can be compiled from the headings of total research assignments employed.)

Historical Publications:

- Andreas, A. T., Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, Andreas Atlas Company, 1875
- Aurner, C. R., History of Education in Iowa, State Historical Society of Iowa, 1914
- Black, P. W., Lynchings in Iowa, in Iowa Journal of History and Politics, April 1912
- Briggs, J. E., Iowa Old and New, University Publishing Company, New York, 1939
- Cole, Cyrenus, A History of the People of Iowa, Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, 1921
- " " Iowa Through the Years, State Historical Society of Iowa, 1940
- Coues, Elliott, The Expeditions of Zebulon M. Pike, Harper, 1895
- Dunbar, E. E., Romance of the Age (or the Discovery of Gold in California), Appleton, 1867
- Ellis, J. W., History of Jackson County, S. J. Clarke & Co., 1910
- Esbeck, Leo J., History of Education in Jackson County (a thesis), 1937
- Given, Welker, A Luxemburg Idyll of Early Iowa, 1922
- Gue, Benj. F., History of Iowa, Century, 1903
- Haines, E. M., The American Indian, Mas-sin-na'-gan Co., 1886
- Harlan, E. R., A Narrative History of the People of Iowa, American Historical Society, 1931
- Iowa Press Ass'n, Who's Who in Iowa, Des Moines, 1940
- Kappler, C. J., Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties, Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1904
- Lorch, F. W., Iowa and the California Gold Rush of 1849, Iowa Jnl. of History & Politics, July '32

Bibliography

- Moffit, Alexander, Iowa Imprints Before 1861, Iowa Journal of History & Politics, July 1932
- Mott, David C., Abandoned Towns, Villages & Post Offices of Iowa (reprint from Annals of Iowa)
- Munsell Pub. Co., Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, 1907
- Parker, N. H., The Iowa Handbook for 1856, Jewett, 1856
- Savage, T. E., Jackson County Geology, in Iowa Geological Survey, Volume 16, 1905
- Snyder, F., History of Jackson County, Iowa, Annals of Iowa, January and April, 1869
- State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City:
Iowa, a Guide to the Hawkeye State, Viking Press, 1938
- Swisher, J. A., The Executive Veto in Iowa, Iowa Journal of History & Politics, April 1917
- Tuttle, C. R., History of Iowa, Peale & Company, 1886
- Van der Zee, J., The Black Hawk War and The Treaty of 1832, Iowa Jnl. of History & Politics, July '15
- Western Hist. Co., History of Jackson County, Iowa, 1879
- Wilson, B. H., From Bellevue to Cascade, Palimpsest, 1932
- Statistical and Other Publications:
- Archdiocese of Dubuque, Bureau of Education, Seventeenth Annual School Report of the Schools of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, 1941 (report for September, 1940)
- Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 14, page 432
- Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 16th Census of the United States, (Population, First Series), 1941
- Iowa State Fair Board, Office Files, May 11, 1885; April 14, 1905; April 17 and May 24, 1911; 1930; February 7, 1931; November 8, 1933
- State Agricultural Society, Iowa Agricultural Reports, State Printing Office, Des Moines, 1857, 1859, 1863, 1878, 1889, 1900
- State Department of Agriculture, Iowa Yearbook of Agriculture, Des Moines, 1940
- State of Iowa: Iowa Official Register, 1939-1940
Territorial Laws of Iowa, 1840-46 (reprint '12)

Bibliography

Virginia Conservation Commission, Iowa (American Recreation Series), Bacon & Wieck, 1941

Newspapers:

Andrew Western Democrat: issues of April 5 & June 7, 1850

Bellevue Leader, 1936-39

Saturday Evening Post (Burlington), July 12 & 19, 1924

Davenport Democrat & Leader, April 17, 1938

Des Moines Register & Leader, September 24, 1911

Maquoketa Excelsior, 1869-72, 1877, 1880-92, 1906-10, 1914-15

Maquoketa Excelsior-Record, 1914-21

Jackson Sentinel, 1898, 1907-08, 1910, 1923-24

Jackson Sentinel & Maquoketa Excelsior, 1930-42

Acknowledgement of Personal Contributions:

Otto V. Battles, operator of Rosemere Farms, Yakima, Wash.

Carlyle Brown, editor Sentinel-Excelsior, Maquoketa

Alfred S. Butterworth, Maquoketa

Wade Guenther, editor Sabula Gazette, Sabula

A. A. Hurst, Iowa State Highway Commission, Maquoketa

Paul Kempster Jr., sec'y Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue

Rev. Nicholas Krull, pastor Catholic Church, St. Donatus

Charles F. Martin, County Superintendent of Schools, Maquoketa

Evalyn Miller, ass't librarian, Maquoketa

Frank W. Schwirtz, attorney, Bellevue

J. H. Stimson, County Agricultural Agent, Maquoketa

INDEX

- Abandoned towns, villages, and post offices, 89
- Aberdeen Angus cattle (Rosemere herd), 97-9, 100
- Agricultural Adjustment Administration, 101
- Agriculture, general, 96-7; early-day hazards of farming, 96-7; farm produce, prices of, in 1870's, 77; first soil tilled, 96
- Andrew:
 - Beginnings, 47-8; Community Club and Co-op Creamery picnic, 102; county fair site, 60; county jail, building of, 67; county jail condemned, 67; county seat site, 46; first court, 48; first officers, 67; first settlement, 18; incorporation, 67
- Baldwin:
 - First settlement, 50; platting of, 60, 75
- Bates, Lyman, 22-3
- Battles, Otto V., 87-8
- Bee-tree episode, 48
- Bellevue:
 - Beginnings, 13-14; bomb-throwing episode, 92-3; brewery, 60; capital site history, 17-18; cornet band, 60; fire of 1854, 56; first bank, 60; first blacksmith shop, 23; first court, 21; first ferry, 21; first sawmill, 22; incorporation, 45; St. Joseph's parish, 46; Sublett House, 56
- Bellevue State Park, 2
- Bellevue War, events leading up to the, 25-35; Godfrey-Jenkins-Brigham affair, 26-27; Pearce, counterfeiter, 27-8; the Joshua Bear case, 29-30; robbery and murder of Tom Davis, 28-9; the Mitchell-Thompson feud, 31-34; Soencer horse-theft affair, 34
- Bellevue War, The:
 - Warrant for a general arrest, 36; citizens' meeting, 37; search for volunteers, 38; interview with the bandit mob, 39; attack on the hotel, 39-40; jury of the citizens, 41-2; the punishment, 43; return of Fox, 43; freeing of Mitchell, 43
- Black Hawk Purchase, 7-8
- Bridge (Sabula-Savanna), 108
- Bridgeport, 22, 44
- Briggs, Ansel, biography of, 47-48; 50, 52, 55
- Brush Creek Rangers, 46
- Buckhorn community, early settlement of, 22
- Burleson, Shadrach, 18, 57
- Butterworth, Nathaniel, stone house of, 55-6
- CCC camp, Maquoketa, 101
- Christian Science societies: at Maquoketa, 94; Sabula, 94
- Churches:
 - Baptist: Maquoketa, 56; First Baptist, Maquoketa, 94
 - Catholic: Saint Donatus, 3
 - Congregational: Bellevue, 55; Maquoketa, 56; Sabula, 52
 - Lutheran: St. John's, Saint Donatus, 3
 - Methodist: Andrew, 52; Maquoketa, 55; Free Methodist, Maquoketa, 94; Sabula, 50
 - Presbyterian, Bellevue, 60
- Civil War, 62-3; aid societies, 65; E. Washburn, story of, 63-5; reunions of Union Army veterans, 94-5; soldiers welcomed home, 65
- Civil War shell, firing of, 93
- Claim clubs, 50
- Coloma (now Monmouth), 58
- Congregational society, Maquoketa, 49
- Corn husking contest, women's, 100-101

County seat:

First, at Bellevue, 19; re-located at Andrew, 46; re-located at Bellevue, 52; sought by Fulton and Centerville, 60; removed to Maquoketa, 76; resought by Andrew, 76-7

Cottonville, first settlement, 18; ghost town, 89

Coverdale, Roy E., 100

Cox, Colonel Thomas, 20, 21, 26, 29, 30, 36-43

Cyclone of 1898, 93-4

Dairy Cattle Feeding School, 102

Dam, hydro-electric, 106-7

Dam #12, Lock &, 108-9

Depression of 1930's, effect of, 108

Draft (see World War I & II)

Dubuque, Julien, 5

Eagle Woolen Mills, 44, 57

Earle, William, trip of, to Dubuque, 48-9

Eastern Iowa Power Company, 106

Eastern Iowa Traction Company, 105

Ellis Museum, 105

Engles, John, murder of, 59

Expeditions:

In Louisiana country, 5-6; lead-hunting, 11-13

Farmers' Union Co-op Creamery (Buckhorn), annual picnic of, 102

Fort Belle Vue, 9

Free Methodist society, Maquoketa, 94

Fremont (now Baldwin), 75

Fulton, founding of, 55

Green Island, beginnings, 75

Grimes, James W., election campaign of, 57

Gold, discovery of, in Jackson County, 60

Gold rush, California, 52-4

Goodenow, John, 21, 22, 46, 49, 55, 74

Goodenow House, 55

Henry's Mill, 18

Hereford cattle, 100

Hunter's (Cottonville) Caves, 2

Hurst, Abraham A., 106

Indian villages: at Bellevue, 6; at Sabula, 7

Indians:

Black Hawk band, pilgrimages of, 8-9; Peosta, discoverer of lead mines, 5; Sac & Fox, and chiefs of, 7; Winnebagoes, 8

Iowa Packing Company, Sabula, 60; industry of, in 1880's, 91

Iowa Territory, creation of, 22

Iron Hill Vigilantes (Regulators), 59

Jackson County:

Boundaries of, fight over, 18-19; centennial, 100; creation, 18; criminal element in, in 1870's, 77; description of, 1-4; first bridge, 21; first court, 21; first officers, 22; first settlers, 10; governmental attachments, 17; jail (Andrew), 52; limestone industry, 2; organization, 20; organizational officers appointed, 19; organizing sheriff of, controversy concerning, 19; population, 21, 44, 50, 52, 56, 91; school census of 1847, 52; soil, 2; streams, 1; survey, 20; tax list of 1841, 46; timber, and products of, 1-2; towns of, in 1942, 4

Jackson County Fair, 102-4

Jackson County Farm Bureau, 101

Jackson County Historical Society, 105

Jackson County Farmers' Institute, 101

Jackson C'y Vigilantes, 107-8

Johnson, Col. William, flogging of, 49

Kinkaid's Mill, 14, 96

Lakehurst, 3, 107

Lafayette, military company of, 60

Land sale murder, 50-51

Land sales, 50

Latter-Day Saints society, 60

Lead-prospecting episode, 11-13

Lead mines, 5

Littlefield centennial, 101

Livestock (see under name of breed)

Lock & Dam #12, Bellevue, 108-9

Louisiana country, 5-6

Louisiana Purchase, 6

Lowell, town of, 44

Maquoketa:

Barber episode, 57; beginnings, 21-2, 49; birth of first white child, 22; early settlement in vicinity, 18; electric lighting, 90; fire of 1876, 78; fire-fighting organizations, 92; first doctor, 44; first ordinance, 56; first railroad to, 74; first school, 45; first wedding, 22; Fourth of July celebration, 45; incorporation, 56; misspelling of name 55; platting of, 55; post office name changed to, from Springfield, 50; telephones, 90; waterworks system, 92

Maquoketa Caves State Park, 2

Maquoketa River:

Flood of 1876, 78; flood of 1937, 109; navigation of, 67

McBride episode, 61

Maughs, Dr. M. M., eccentric pioneer, 14-16

Methodist Episcopal societies at Andrew, 49, and Sabula, 23-4

Methodist society, Maquoketa, 22

Miles: Beginnings of, 71;

Miles (continued:

first settlement on site, 56

Mill Rock, platting of, 57

Mississippi River:

Flood of 1880, 90-91; flood of 1937, 109

Mitchell, James, 31-4, 43

Monmouth, platting of, 75

Mound Builders, 6-7

Nashville, platting of, 75

National centennial, celebration of, 78

New Rochester, paper town, 18

Newspapers:

Andrew Courier, 93; Andrew Western Democrat, 52, 66; Bellevue Argus, 66; Bellevue Banner, 66; Bellevue Journal, 66; Bellevue Leader, 66; Dubuque Visitor, 52; Eastern Iowan, 66; German Journal, 92; Iowa Republic, 66; Jackson County Leader, 66; Jackson County Press, 66; Jackson Sentinel, 58, 66, 92; Jackson Sentinel & Maquoketa Excelsior, 58, 67; Maquoketa Record, 92; Maquoketa Reporter, 92; Maquoketa Sentinel, 58, 66-7; Maquoketa Weekly Excelsior, 58, 66-7, 92; Preston Times, 67; Sabula Gazette, 66; Sabula Tribune, 58

North Maquoketa, 44

Octennial Oat Mill, 77; burning of, 91

Oil, discovery of, near Green Island, 69; near Maquoketa, 105

Orphan asylum, Andrew, 65-6

Palmer, Henderson, 31, 40

Poland China hogs, 100

Post offices:

Amoy, 52; Bridgeport, 55; Cobb (later Mill Rock), 52; Copper Creek, 55; Cottonville, 55; Farmer's Creek, 56; Garry Owen, 52; Hickory Grove, 55; Higginsport, 56;

Post offices (continued):

Iron Hill, 55; Mt. Algor, 60; New Castle, 55; Otter Creek, 56; Ozark, 56; Rolley, 56; Silsbe, 47; Smith's Ferry, 55; Springfield, 44; Spruce Mills, 56; Sterling, 56; Summer Hill, 56; Tete des Morts, 47; Van Buren, 56; Waterford, 56; Wickliffe, 49

Predatory animals, 68, 96

Preston:

Annual dairy dinner, 102; beginnings of, 71-2; first settlement on site of, 18

Railroads:

Chicago, Bellevue, Cascade & Western, 78-9; C. B. & Q., 73; Chicago, Clinton, Dubuque & Minnesota, 78; C. M. & St. P., 70; C. N. W., 73; D. & St. R., 72-4; D. B. & M., 74-75; Great Iowa Central Airline, 56, 58-9, 72, 73; Iowa Midland, 70-74; Maquoketa, Hurstville & Dubuque, 93; S. A. & D., 70-71; Western Union, 71, 72

Red Cross, 110

Red Polled cattle, 97

Reichling, Darwin, 100

Reistroffer, Claire, 100

Rockdale Cheese Factory, 62

Sabula:

Beginnings, 14; birth of first white child, 22; death rate in 1889, 93; first ferry, 18; first officers, 68; first school, 50; incorporation, 68; steam ferry, 60; town band, 60; town plat, absence of, 68; turnpike, 68

Saint Donatus, 3, 47; conservation in vicinity of, 101-2

Schools:

Condition of, at Bellevue in 1862, 82; consolidated, 87; districting and sub-districting, 81, 83, 86; financial difficulties of 1850's, 83; first night school, Maquoke-

Schools: (continued)

ta, 87; first schools, 80-81; higher education facilities in 1870, 82; parochial, 37-88; public (1942), 87; public school system, fight over management of, 84-6; stone schoolhouses, 84; teachers' Saturday institutes, 86; teaching, hardships of, 82-83; Bellevue Academy, 82; Bellevue H. S., 82; Maquoketa Academy, 81-2; Maquoketa Business College, 86; Maquoketa H. S., 86; Miles & Preston Teachers' Ass'n, 86; Normal & Comm'l School, 86; State Normal School, 81; Washington Lyceum, 80

Shetland ponies, 100

Shorthorn cattle, 99, 100

Silver Creek Quail Area #2, 102

Smith, Platt, 72

Spanish-American War, 93

Spragueville, 46

State Fish Rescue Station, 3

Steamboats, 67-8

Sugg, Dr. J. G., 49

Taxes, early-day collection of, 21

Temperance society, 58

Townships, organization of, 45; names of (1942), 1

Tubbs' Mill, 62

USO, contributions to, 110

Vosburg, William, deer-killing episode, 45

Warren, William A., 11-13, 19, 20, 21, 25-43, 46, 48

Watkins, invention of, 92

Winter of 1842-43, 48-9

World War I, 105-6

World War II, 109-110

Wright, Thomas, 22, 44, 57, 74

Zwingle, founding of, 52

977.759
5096



DEC 74

N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

